



Minutes
Montana Board of Regents
University of Montana Missoula
November 18-19, 2021

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Meeting convened at 8:06 am

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

Welcome and Comments by Chair Lozar | *00:06:05*

Chair Lozar welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed gratitude to President Bodnar and his team for hosting this November meeting. He gave an agenda overview, specifically mentioning two additional groups that would join the Regents for separate meetings on Friday: the Education Interim Committee and the Board of Public Education. He then recognized several outstanding achievements across the MUS. 1) UM's Montana Technology Enterprise Center (MonTEC) received an \$850,000 grant from the Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls to support indigenous women interested in starting or growing a business in Montana. 2) Montana Tech received a \$7 million donation from Dave and Sherry Lesar for their nursing program. 3) MSU recently opened the newly remodeled Romney Hall.

Welcome by President Bodnar | Presentation | *00:13:50*

President Bodnar began his presentation by expressing appreciation for his staff and the teams for facilities, research, foundation, and student success. Additional gratitude was expressed for the Board, K12 partners, and students. He recognized Montana Teacher of the Year, William (Bill) Stockton. President Bodnar discussed growth in several key areas: enrollment, inclusion, research, and infrastructure improvements. He also discussed three change imperatives the UM University Design team identified: adapt curriculum, integrate experiential and work-based learning, and serve a broader range of learners. He discussed areas of focus for each of those three items. Discussion followed.

Approval of Minutes | *00:46:30*

- September 15-16, 2021, Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of September 15-16, 2021, Board meeting minutes was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

Commissioner's and System Report | *00:47:08*



Commissioner Christian extended appreciation to President Bodnar for hosting and the Regents for their work, time, leadership, and dedication. He discussed a few thoughts about how to continue to navigate the ongoing pandemic while positioning the MUS for success. Daily challenges have been many but have produced valuable lessons that can be used moving forward. The brick-and-mortar environment is important, but students also want the flexibility to take classes online.

Commissioner Christian spoke to how his office would continue to advance the Board's primary strategic initiatives of access, retention and completion. He mentioned resident student access including the central application, the portal, and the highest number of entering freshmen since 2011. OCHE was invited to join three other states in the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Attainment Academy which will allow a small group of leaders from the MUS, Governor's Office, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and the Legislature to collaborate with peer states and receive high-quality support and leadership from national higher education leadership organizations.

- COVID-19 Update | 00:57:50

Deputy Commissioner Tessman reported that the virus remains a significant challenge on campuses between the virus itself, the dislocation, mental health challenges, instructional delivery adaptation, and workload. Campuses will continue to manage and adapt the ability to test, quarantine, serve as vaccine distribution centers, adjust policy, and more. He emphasized two key points for higher education moving into the future. The first is around the teaching and learning environment on campuses and providing flexibility, accessibility, and quality. The second highlight is the improvement of campus community collaboration between academics, medical, and administration.

- Federal Update | 01:05:12

Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, reported that the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package was signed by President Biden. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides about \$550 billion in new federal spending, including \$65 billion for broadband access to rural and underserved areas. The package also provides opportunities for funding to colleges and universities, particularly in research. The budget reconciliation package currently includes: 1) increasing Pell Grants by \$550 to a little over \$7,000 a year and allow non-tuition expenditures without tax; 2) \$500 million for competitive grants to states and higher education systems to promote programs for student retention and completion; 3) improving workforce readiness and supporting HBCUs, tribal colleges and minority serving institutions. Finally, she mentioned the United States Innovation and Competition Act which passed the Senate but has a companion bill sitting in the House.

- Governor's Office of Community Service (OCS) | 01:14:30

Sarah Sadowski, Executive Director of OCS, also known as Serve Montana, explained three main areas they address: national service, Americorps, and community volunteerism. Americorps has six programs with about 550 individuals serving. OCS facilitates one hundred \$1,000 Youth Serve Montana scholarships annually. She



discussed Americorps and the many ways they serve, including workforce development and educational awards. She described the many opportunities for college students and her goal to increase awareness of these opportunities.

- Enrollment Update | 01:29:30

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained preliminary numbers comparing last fall to this fall. Across the board, enrollment FTE is up by 2.3 percent but include a continuing decline in resident undergraduates. He compared FTE by institution type, flagship college, and campus. The main point he discussed was headcount, which was up 4.9 percent, partially due to the return of dual enrollment. He further discussed an increase in first time freshmen which were the highest since 2011. National trends are downward, and overall Montana outperforms those trends with projected increases. MUS capture rate is down eight percent since 2013 and the in-state college rate has dropped ten percent since 2010. Discussion followed.

- Campus Reports (Linked to agenda)
- Introductions & Acknowledgements | 01:45:35

Commissioner Christian announced that Chancellor Cook from Montana Tech was selected to receive the 2021 Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Region V Scott President's Award.

Chancellor Kegel introduced Dr. Beth Durodoye, Dean of College of Arts, Sciences, and Education, Montana State University Northern.

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 02:05:40

CONSENT

Staff Items:

- a. Staff Item, UM Missoula ITEM 197-1004-R1121
- b. Staff Item, MSU Bozeman, ITEM 2000-R1121
- c. Staff Item, MSU Northern, ITEM 2800-R1121
- d. Staff Item, MT Tech, ITEM 197-1500-R1121
- e. Staff Item, OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-100-R1121 | Attachment #1
- f. Labor Agreements, OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-101-R1121 | Attachment #1
- g. Request for Authorization to Appoint Members to the Fire Services Training Advisory Council; MSU Extension ITEM 197-2401-R1121

Emeriti Faculty:

- h. Kuipers; UM Missoula; ITEM 197-1008-R1121
- i. Schuldberg; UM Missoula ITEM 197-1009-R1121
- j. Slicer; UM Missoula ITEM 197-1010-R1121



- k. Young; MSU Bozeman ITEM 197-2001-R1121
- l. Hatfield; MSU Bozeman ITEM 197-2002-R1121
- m. Speece; MT Tech ITEM 197-1502-R1121

Facility Items:

- n. Request for Authorization to Modernize Music Practice Rooms; UM Missoula ITEM 197-1006-R1121 | Attachment #1
- o. Request for Authorization to Increase Spending Authority for Montana Museum of Art and Culture (MMAC); UM Missoula ITEM 197-1007-R1121
- p. Request for Authorization to Renovate Block Hall; UM Western ITEM 197-1601-R1121 | Attachment #1
- q. Request for Authorization to Add Square Footage to Existing Off-Campus Lease 900 Technology Boulevard; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 197-2003-R1121
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- s. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design and Repair the Roof of Strand Union Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 197-2006-R1121 | Attachment #1
- t. Request for Authorization to Lease Land to Charter Realty; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 197-2007-R1121
- u. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design and Replace Obsolete Fire Alarm Systems in Madison and Jefferson Residence Halls; MSU Bozeman ITEM 197-2008-R1121 | Attachment #1
- v. Request for Approval to Proceed with Planning, Design, and Construction of the Helena College Cosmetology Classroom/Salon Area; Helena College ITEM 197-1901-R1121 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3
- w. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design and Repair HVAC System for Campus Data Centers in AJM Johnson Hall; Montana State University ITEM 197-2010-R1121 | Attachment #1
- x. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design and Repair HVAC Systems for Campus Data Centers in Renne Library; MSU Bozeman ITEM 197-2011-R1121 | Attachment #1

Other:

- y. Request for Approval of Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program (MRPIP) Candidates; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-102-R1121

Regent Nystuen requested that item e. be pulled into action items for discussion.

ACTION

- a. Request for Authorization to Improve the Women's Locker Rooms and Equipment at the Adams Center; UM Missoula ITEM 197-1005-R1121 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration, presented a summary of the improvements. Phases one and two are completed with this request being phase three.

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained that items b. through l. are all policy updates that were presented at the September meeting.

- b. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.12.1 – Tuition and Fee Approval; OCHE/MSU ITEM 197-103-R1121 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.13 – Tuition Waivers and Discounts; OCHE/MUS Item 197-104-R1121 | Attachment #1
- d. Request to Repeal Board of Regents Policy 940.9.1 – Use of Plant Funds for Projects Under \$75,000; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-105-R1121 | Attachment #1
- e. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.9.2 – Use of Plant Funds for Projects Over \$75,000 OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-106-R1121 | Attachment #1
- f. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 901.4 – Rental and Royalties; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-107-R1121 | Attachment #1
- g. Request to Repeal Board of Regents Policy 901.12 – Use of Timber Sales; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-108-R1121 | Attachment #1
- h. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 950.2 – Montana Family Education Saving Program; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-109-R1121 | Attachment #1
- i. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 1002.2 – Vehicle Policy and Procedures; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-110-R1121 | Attachment #1
- j. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 1004.1 – Naming of Building Projects; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-111-R1121 | Attachment #1
- k. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 1003.7 – Authorization for Building Projects; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-112-R1121 | Attachment #1
- l. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 1003.6 – Transfer of Interest in Real Property; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-113-R1121 | Attachment #1

Staff item e. from the consent agenda was requested to be pulled down into action by Regent Nystuen. Staff Item, OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-100-R1121 | Attachment #1
02:24:50

Regent Nystuen said he would like to add three percent to the changes column with two percent being for a cost-of-living increase and one percent to recognize the work of staff through the pandemic. Discussion followed.

INFORMATION | 02:36:55

- a. BOR Policy Revisions
 - o 910.1 - Budgeting; Community Colleges



Deputy Commissioner Trevor stated that this is an update to the requirements in response to changes in state law.

- 702.2 - Appointment; Commissioner's Staff

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained this request to repeal is to modernize.

- 901.9 - Campus-Affiliated Foundations

Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, discussed the proposed changes to this policy, most of which are non-substantive since they are simply intended to clean up language and add clarifications. The focus was on the operating agreements between campuses and the affiliated foundations.

- 205.4 - Campus Entertainment

Deputy Commissioner Trevor said the title would be amended to be titled campus hospitality. The proposed changes clarify documentation requirements and treat students consistently with the general public.

- b. Online Fee Discussion | Attachment 1 | Attachment 2 | 02:44:20

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained the topic of fees is in this agenda since fees were included in the work plan from September.

Joe Thiel, Director of Academic Policy & Research, explained that online fees vary widely, are substantial, and are charged only to students with online courses but support face to face interaction. Fee structure principles state that fees should be transparent, equitable, consistent and do no harm. A draft of policy revisions for online fees will be presented to the Board. The biggest benefit would be to students, particularly for cross registration and course sharing. The LMS update will be a big step which will include hard work and further discussions. RFP criteria work will begin this fall with the goal of implementation and transition to begin in fall 2023 with completion by fall 2025. Discussion followed.

- c. Enterprise Risk Management Update | Attachment 1 | 03:05:08

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented an update as a follow up to the work plan with a focus at the system level on enterprise risk management. A system wide risk leadership council will convene in December. Discussion followed.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee | 03:10:34

CONSENT

- a. Revisions to Policies 301.5, 301.5.1, & 320.3 | *Redlined 301.5 | Redlined 301.5.1 | Redlined 320.3* | 03:11:00

Deputy Commissioner Tessman explained that these policy revisions are updates to reflect changes in the national accreditation discussion and remove the word regional.



INFORMATION | 03:12:00

Academic Review Items

Deputy Commissioner Tessman reminded the Board that these information items reflect the established action priorities of the work plan which are 1) access for all Montanans, 2) retention and completion, 3) workforce and economic development, and 4) equity in opportunity and achievement.

a. Academic Priorities and Planning Statements

Deputy Commissioner Tessman explained that there are three things to consider for these items. 1) Identify areas of overlap in forthcoming academic programming, so that OCHE and campuses can organize early coordination and state-level conversation, 2) Evaluate the alignment between a campus' academic priorities, mission parameters, and emerging local, state, and regional needs, and 3) Understand campus-level procedures for reviewing and prioritizing academic programming. Themes identified include: 1) Innovation in educator-prep programming, 2) short-term stackable credentials, and 3) workforce development programs focus. Discussion followed.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, Continued | 04:33:14

ACTION

- a. Request to Name the Montana Technological University Nursing Department the Sherry Lesar School of Nursing ITEM 197-1502-R1121 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | 04:34:20

Chancellor Cook introduced a \$7 million gift received from Dave and Sherry Lesar to Montana Tech's nursing program. He acknowledged that this is the largest gift in program history. This gift will help address several of Montana Tech's goals.

A motion for approval of action item a., item 197-1502-R1121, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request to Name the MSU College of Nursing the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing, MSU-Bozeman ITEM 197-2004-R1121 | Attachment #1 | 04:38:51

President Cruzado introduced a \$101 million gift from Mark and Robyn Jones to MSU College of Nursing. Demonstrating that this gift will have statewide impact, she shared many of the planned improvements, programs, and partners, including five new nursing facilities at MSU campuses

A motion for approval of action item b., item 197-2004-R1121, was made by Regent Nystuen; motion passed (7-0).



ACTION | 04:47:15

- c. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary and OCHE
Analysis | Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking | 04:48:00

Deputy Commissioner Tessman presented the format for the request to plan proposals up for consideration. Representatives from each of the three campuses gave a brief presentation of their items.

Dean Erdmann, Great Falls College, presented the request to plan proposals for the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Office Management and Supervision, and a Certificate of Applied Science (C.A.S.) in Office Support.

Acting Provost Humphrey, UM, presented the request to plan proposals for the Cybersecurity B.S., the Institute for Early Childhood Education, and a Native American Studies M.A.

Interim Provost Carlson, UM Western, presented the request to plan proposals to add a Business with an option in Farm and Ranch Specialist A.A.S., a Business with an option in Outdoor Industry Specialist, A.A.S., a Professional Horsemanship Certificate, and a Professional Horsemanship M.S

- d. Montana Technological University Mission Statement ITEM 197-1501-R1121 |
05:07:25

Provost Gammon explained the background of the revised Montana Tech mission statement.

INFORMATION | 05:10:18

Academic Review Items

- b. Program Reviews
- c. Academic Approval Memo

Deputy Commissioner Tessman explained item b. is a schedule of each campuses academic review process. Item c. is the academic approval memo which is a list of items approved at campus and OCHE level.

Strategic Priority Items

- a. AIMA Update | 05:12:47

Angela McLean, Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, shared the American Indian and Minority Achievement (AIMA) statistics highlighting recent achievements. 1) Enrollment numbers show an eight percent increase, six percent of the overall student population, a four percent gain on flagship campuses, nineteen percent gain on all four-year campuses, and 7.6 percent gain on two-year campuses. 2) Central application statistics show 14.3 percent of all applications and outreach has already begun to those individuals. 3) Retention shows a



7.9 percent increase, and 4) Four tribal colleges are now signed up for common course numbering, which is important for transfers. Director McLean stressed that these gains are all intentional and from hard work. Discussion followed.

b. Montana 10 Scaling | 05:38:16

Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs and Student Engagement, presented current highlights of the program. The primary goal of the program is to graduate more students, on time, with less debt. The secondary goal is an investment based on what it does for Montana. Retention of Montana 10 students is 18 percentage point higher than the matched group. Four UM Montana 10 students (Connor Mostek, Abigail Howard, Christina Marple, and Tanner Ecker) spoke on what the program means to them and what benefits they have found. Director Miller pointed out that part of the challenge is needing guidance to find a purpose, to belong, and support in addressing common hurdles such as financial aid, mental health, and other academic challenges. Three primary items to consider expansion for more students are funding, institutional support, and fidelity to the Montana 10 framework.

Phase two will be a multi campus delivery of both Pell and non-Pell eligible students. Two cohorts will start in 2023 and 2024. A national research organization (MDRC) will conduct an external evaluation which will result in analysis on return on investment and cost, program replication, national interest, and funding opportunities. Discussion followed.

c. MUS Research Update | 06:39:17

Director Thiel noted that Montana is one of the top states for research which provides secondary benefits in workforce development, jobs, educational opportunities, and continuing growth.

The 2022 research focus will be on three items. 1) Build up nation-leading undergraduate research, 2) address recruitment and retention risks for highly productive research faculty, and 3) communicate how central research can impact Montana's economic and workforce development goals.

Jason Carter, MSU, spoke to addressing recruitment and retention risks. When a researcher is lost, not only is a good faculty member gone but it takes a large investment of time and money to replace them.

Scott Whittenberg, UM, addressed workforce and economic development. From 2019 to 2021, Accelerate MT had more than 2300 touch points for companies, within 207 distinct cities, 25 states, and six countries. MonTEC's 32,000 square feet is fully occupied and \$60 million in venture capital funding was invested in the last six years. Discussion followed.

Two-Year and Community College Committee | 07:07:50



a. Dual-Enrollment Update

Dan Karalus, Dual Enrollment Program Manager, provided updates on dual enrollment (DE) and Career & Technical Education (CTE). Over the last three years, CTE accounted for 28 percent of DE. Moreover, 80 percent were from the top ten most popular subjects with welding being at the top. Over 40 percent of Early College CTE DE were online. He also discussed the types of courses versus class size, and urban versus rural areas. The DE Program will continue to build the DE and CTE relationships, improve the offerings, invest in DE teachers, staff, and programs, and seek better alignment with growing industries. Discussion followed.

b. Prior Learning Assessment Policy Update | 07:41:47

Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education, provided an update. Most of the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) students are coming from advanced placement and international baccalaureate students. Adults and veterans need to be more of a focus. The Program will work to lift the 25 percent PLA cap, replace the PLA council for a smaller working group moving forward, and update the PLA fees by aligning as much as possible between campuses. The next steps are 1) have the small group begin a policy review, develop a handbook or toolkit, and focus on professional development, 2) improve data tracking, 3) bring policy draft to BOR in January 2022, and 4) present an annual PLA report and policy approval in March 2022. Discussion followed.

Public Comment* | 08:16:42

Noah Durnell, ASUM President, spoke of a resolution passed the evening before, which was the 50th resolution passed by the organization and further informed the Regents of several issues discussed since September.

Rebecca Kranitz, UM Staff Senator, spoke of issues that need to be addressed for recruitment and retention of staff including the skyrocketing cost of living, housing issues, gas prices surges, staff burnout, and high turnover.

O'Shay Birdinground, spoke in favor of reconsidering Native American waiver standards.

Kevin Thropp, Global Engagement Office, spoke in favor of international education.

Yulianus Kogoya, Global Engagement Office, spoke in favor of international education.

George (Jupiter) Flores, Global Engagement Office, spoke in favor of international education.

Madison McKenzie, ASUM senator, spoke of surveys which leaned in favor of COVID-19 mandates for vaccine requirements.

Lauren O'Neill, ASUM senator, spoke in favor of COVID-19 vaccine mandates based on



the survey results.

Cassie Williams, ASUM senator, spoke in favor of basic needs and security for an accessible education, addressing needs such as the food pantry, Bare Necessities which will open in 2022, and housing issues.

Ryan Fulton spoke of issues with transferring credits.

Melissa Glueckert, ASUM senator, spoke in favor of more work and resources directed to mental health and wellness.

Maxwell Shaver, Montana 10 scholar, spoke in favor of advocates and equitability such as that provided through Montana 10.

Amelia Hawes, ASUM Senator, spoke in favor of open educational resources since purchasing textbooks are too much for some.

Elizabeth Bowles, ASUM Senator, spoke of the issue of housing.

Jack Rinck, ASUM Business Manager, addressed budget action item b, stating that the student driven fee definition might be detrimental to the intent.

Zachary Stockward spoke for students as a counterpoint against the reported survey results regarding a vaccine mandate.

Meeting Recessed at 5:07 pm

Friday, November 19, 2021

Meeting Reconvened at 8:36 am

Remarks by Governor Gianforte (or Designee) | 00:13:10

Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Policy Advisor, reported that the Governor has created a position within the Department of Labor focusing on workforce development which will function in partnership with K-12 and post-secondary education, and private entities. College affordability is one of the Governor's priorities. The Governor recently completed a 50-county tour including several campuses visits. The Governor's office is working closely with OCHE on priorities that would have an impact on unemployment. They are excited about the Second Chance Pell Grant and health care recruitment.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | 00:19:37

Superintendent Arntzen highlighted some information in the P20 book including lower levels of drinking and smoking, 41 percent of students are clinically depressed, and a primary need for teacher prep in mental health awareness. At a law conference, which included 117 participants, several topics were discussed: parental rights, gender issues, critical race theory, and masks and vaccines. She further explained a request to open



licensing criteria that will go to the Board of Education with recommendations at the first of the year. Teacher Prep programs are also being looked at, as is accreditation. She acknowledged Teacher of the Year, William (Bill) Stockton and his community of Arlee.

Education Interim Committee / Board of Regents Joint Session | 00:45:55

- Welcome and introductions

Chair Lozar explained it had been a couple of years since the last meeting of the joint session. Two topics will be under discussion, teacher preparation and student access.

EDIC Chair, Senator McClafferty, summarized the opportunities they had in the last couple of days which included a tour of Montana State Prison. They completed additional tours with the Board of Public Education to the Jefferson Early Learning Center, the Willard Alternative Program, and the Ag Ed Center and a meat processing plant in Missoula.

Members present introduced themselves and their roles. Additional EDIC members present included Senator O'Brien, Representative Reksten, Representative Novak, Representative Hill, Representative Funk, Representative Anderson, Representative Running Wolf, Senator Saloman, and Senator Tempel. Dylan Klapmeier was also in attendance.

- Updates on teacher preparation initiatives:
 - Grow Your Own Teacher Grant Program (HB403; Running Wolf) | 01:02:14

Director McLean gave a background of the program. Rural districts continue to have recruitment challenges. Proposals from Stone Child College, Blackfeet Community College and a joint proposal from MSU Northern and Great Falls College were discussed.

- Master of Arts in Teaching and Montana Rural Teacher Programs at MSU | 01:25:52

Dr. Alison Harmon, presented on the Master of Arts in Teaching and Montana Rural Teacher programs. The Master of Arts in Teaching was launched in summer of 2019 as a one-year program. She spoke to the program's entry requirements, goals and outcomes.

Several externally funded initiatives have come from this program, such as The Center for Research on Rural Education. The launch of this program allowed MSU and partners to access the largest Department of Education grant of \$3.1 million, the Montana Rural Teacher Project. The program features rural placements, living wage stipends, three-year teaching commitment, two years of new teacher mentoring, and ongoing professional learning and development. There are over 100 teachers that have volunteered to be mentors for the program.



The model of this program was duplicated and expanded in the Rural Mental Health Preparation/Practice Pathway which addresses the severe mental health workforce shortage. Montana is one of three states to be awarded this federally funded grant worth \$2.3 million. The program is a collaboration between MSU and UM departments, using a research model to identify gaps, connect organizations, and develop best practices.

Advancing Support, Preparation, and Innovation in Rural Education (ASPIRE) is funded with a \$1.5 million grant from individual donors and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies Foundation. ASPIRE supports several initiatives including, Rural Teacher Pathways, MentorMT, and Montana Teacher Licensure Clearinghouse. Discussion followed.

- Proficiency-based Education at MSU | 01:52:30

Dr. Harmon explained the Proficiency-Based Education (PBE) program centers on demonstrations of specific and transparent learning outcomes in which learning is the constant, and time is the variable. She further discussed the programs outcomes and challenges. Project initiatives include summer institute for teachers, teacher education module development, family engagement program, and enhancement of field experiences. Discussion followed

- Resident Student Access
 - Montana University System initiatives (Central Application, ApplyMT Portal) | 01:59:03

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, talked about the two main components of resident student access. All residents can apply to all campuses in one location for free. Apply Montana consists of two programs, the Central Application (CAS), and the forthcoming Career and College Readiness Portal. Objectives are to communicate to the roughly 40 percent of MT high school graduates who don't pursue post-secondary education, provide additional support for students, parents, and educators, and extend campus level services to everyone in Montana through a central office. The digital awareness campaign was launched last year to reach 27,000 households, students, and guidance counselors. The application was launched in September 2020 and the second application cycle began in July 2021. The Apply Montana Portal will go live in January 2022. Montana families have saved more than \$500,000 to date in waived application fees alone, and that support is provided to counselors and families by providing one platform for free. MUS led initiatives provide an efficient and effective way to support students and campuses by a single point of entry. Discussion followed.

- Resident student financial aid program report (20-26-105, MCA) | 02:25:55

Deputy Commissioner Trevor discussed 2019 SB60 which revitalized the STEM scholarship and laid an amazing framework for all levels of student need. The report has a lot of data from the three main sections required. Data includes the total number



entered each fall. ACCESS scholarship was not funded last legislative session. Discussion followed.

- Ongoing collaboration between Board of Regents and Legislature

Public Comment* | 03:01:45

Suzanne Oehler, MSU parent, spoke in favor of a residency appeal overturn.

Auna Fox, UMW, spoke to request a statement from BOR regarding their opinion on a vaccine mandate.

Garrett Yeager, UMW, presented a resolution against a vaccine mandate based on the UMW survey respondents in which 80 percent of respondents were against such a mandate.

Jacob Kunsey, MAS President, presented a resolution to make open educational resources a priority and reduce need for textbooks.

David Yarlott Jr, President of Big Horn College, spoke in favor of considering partnerships with tribal colleges.

Committee Reports & Action | 03:15:20

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

CONSENT

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- t. Request for Authorization to Lease Land to Charter Realty; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 197-2007-R1121
- u. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design and Replace Obsolete Fire Alarm Systems in Madison and Jefferson Residence Halls; MSU Bozeman ITEM 197-2008-R1121 | Attachment #1
- v. Request for Approval to Proceed with Planning, Design, and Construction of the Helena College Cosmetology Classroom/Salon Area; Helena College ITEM 197-1901-R1121 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3
- w. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design and Repair HVAC System for Campus Data Centers in AJM Johnson Hall; Montana State University ITEM 197-2010-R1121 | Attachment #1
- x. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design and Repair HVAC Systems for Campus Data Centers in Renne Library; MSU Bozeman ITEM 197-2011-R1121 | Attachment #1



Other:

- y. Request for Approval of Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program (MRPIP) Candidates; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-102-R1121

Consent item e. was previously pulled out for discussion but added back into the consent agenda. A motion for approval of consent items a.-y. was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0)

ACTION

- a. Request for Authorization to Improve the Women's Locker Rooms and Equipment at the Adams Center; UM Missoula ITEM 197-1005-R1121 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 197-1005-R1121, was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.12.1 – Tuition and Fee Approval; OCHE/MSU ITEM 197-103-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 197-103-R1121, was made by Regent Rogers. Regent Dombrowski requested this item be held and remand it to the budget committee for further revision of the student driven fees language within the policy.

- c. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.13 – Tuition Waivers and Discounts; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-104-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 197-104-R1121, was made by Regent Nystuen; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Request to Repeal Board of Regents Policy 940.9.1 – Use of Plant Funds for Projects Under \$75,000; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-105-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 197-105-R1121, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- e. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.9.2 – Use of Plant Funds for Projects Over \$75,000 OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-106-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item e., ITEM 197-106-R1121, was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).

- f. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 901.4 – Rental and Royalties; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-107-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item f., ITEM 197-107-R1121, was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- g. Request to Repeal Board of Regents Policy 901.12 – Use of Timber Sales; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-108-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item g., ITEM 197-108-R1121, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- h. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 950.2 – Montana Family Education Saving Program; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-109-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item h., ITEM 197-109-R1121, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

- i. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 1002.2 – Vehicle Policy and Procedures; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-110-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item i., ITEM 197-110-R1121, was made by Regent Nystuen; motion passed (7-0).

- j. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 1004.1 – Naming of Building Projects; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-111-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item j., ITEM 197-111-R1121, was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).

- k. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 1003.7 – Authorization for Building Projects; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-112-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item k., ITEM 197-112-R1121, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- l. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 1003.6 – Transfer of Interest in Real Property; OCHE/MUS ITEM 197-113-R1121 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item l., ITEM 197-113-R1121, was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).

None.

- Two-Year and Community College Committee

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

CONSENT

- a. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policies 301.5, 301.5.1, & 320.3

- Attachment #1: Revisions to BOR policy 301.5 - Transfer of Credits; MUS and Community Colleges



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- Attachment #2: Revisions to BOR policy 301.5.1 - System of Controls
- Attachment #3: Revisions to BOR policy 320.3 - Recognition; Canadian Public Institutions

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

ACTION

- a. Request to Name the Montana Technological University Nursing Department the Sherry Lesar School of Nursing ITEM 197-1502-R1121 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Action previously taken.

- b. Request to Name the MSU College of Nursing the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing, MSU-Bozeman ITEM 197-2004-R1121 | Attachment #1

Action previously taken

- c. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis | Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking | 04:48:00

A motion for approval of action item c., Request to Plan proposals, was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Montana Technological University Mission Statement ITEM 197-1501-R1121 | 05:07:25

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 197-1501-R1121, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

Chair Lozar explained the process related to the appeals.

- Appeal #1

The request to hear the appeal is denied and the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

- Appeal #2

The request to hear the appeal is denied and the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:03 pm.



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Approved by the Board of Regents on

01/06/2022

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in cursive.

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

01/06/2022

Date

Handwritten signature of Casey Lozar in cursive.

Casey Lozar
Chair, Board of Regents

APPENDIX A

AmeriCorps Service Programs



Big Sky Watershed Corps 36 AmeriCorps members serve within watershed organizations and mobilize community volunteers to improve at-risk ecosystems at the headwaters of our nation's greatest rivers. Big Sky Watershed Corps is made real through a partnership with the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Montana Conservation Corps, and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council.

Bryan Wilson

bryan@mtcorps.org

<https://www.mtcors.org/joinmcc/individual-placement-programs/big-sky-watershed-corps.html>



Community in Action Corps of Richland County Health Department addresses needs in Eastern Montana communities affected by the oil boom. Specifically, the program will implement best practices to encourage workforce development, access to healthy food, and mental health issues by engaging partners in the community and encouraging local volunteerism to increase collaboration and promote a better quality of life in Eastern Montana.

Stephanie Reynolds

stephanie.reynolds@richland.org

<https://www.richland.org/448/Communities-in-Action>



Montana Legal Services Association's Justice for Montanans 20 AmeriCorps members empower low to moderate income Montanans to advocate for their legal rights and increase access to justice. Members expand intake, help attorneys with case management, develop outreach materials and presentations, help survivors of domestic violence access services, and more.

Mēghan Scott

mscott@mtlsa.org

justiceformontanans.org

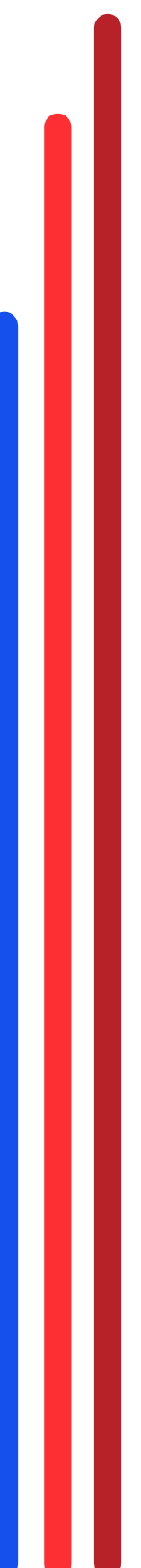


Montana State Parks AmeriCorps promotes healthy, active, and environmentally aware communities by enhancing park land, enriching educational opportunities, building volunteer capacity, and strengthening community outreach in state parks. AmeriCorps members serving in this program develop a commitment to stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

Seth Shteir

Seth.Shteir@mt.gov

stateparks.mt.gov/ameriCorps/



AmeriCorps Service Programs



Campus Compact Montana

Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps state connects over 65 college student AmeriCorps members with first generation and low-income Montanans, helping open the doors to postsecondary education. MTCC is an affiliate of the national Campus Compact movement, with most all of Montana colleges and universities actively engaging in community partnerships, service-learning, and volunteerism.

Dannette Fadness

fadness@mtcompact.org

<https://mtcompact.org/ameri-corps-vista/about-national-service/more-about-mtcc-ameri-corps-state/>

Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) AmeriCorps VISTA connects campus resources with critical community needs. MTCC AmeriCorps VISTAs serve on Montana college campuses and in partnership with community groups, nonprofits, schools, and faith-based organizations to address local needs.

Callye Foster

callye@mtcompact.org

<https://mtcompact.org/ameri-corps-vista/about-national-service/more-about-mtcc-vista/>



The Billings Metro VISTA Project seeks to give people in poverty the tools they need to help themselves. Billings MVP members build and enhance projects to 'Fight Poverty With Passion', focusing on areas such as safe affordable housing, college readiness, vocational training, and food security.

Brenda Beckett

beckettb@ci.billings.mt.us

<https://ci.billings.mt.us/1442/Billings-Metro-VISTA-Project>

MC VP

The Montana Community VISTA Partnership (MCVP) strives to keep Montana children, communities and families strong and resilient, improve and protect the health, well-being and self-reliance of all Montanans and support the strengths of families and communities by promoting employment and providing the assistance necessary to help families and individuals meet basic needs and work their way out of poverty.

John Schlepp

John.Schlepp@mt.gov

dphhs.mt.gov/vista

Guided by the mission of RDI to bring financial security to all Montanans, Montana Economic Opportunity (MEO) VISTAs develop financial literacy programs, serve to make affordable housing available, and strategize ways to help under-employed and unemployed Montanans find a stable and livable income. MEO VISTAs serve with local agencies to leverage poverty reduction resources and strengthen community volunteerism throughout Montana.

Jordyn Rogers

jordynr@ruraldynamics.org

<https://ruralvista.org>



AmeriCorps Planning Grantees



The Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) mission is to catalyze the region's economy within Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, Meagher and northern Jefferson Counties. MBAC provides technical business assistance, gap financing and community development support within the region to the public and private sectors.
www.mbac.biz



The Montana Association of Conservation Districts support Montana's 58 conservation districts in promoting and maintaining a landscape where soil, water, and other natural resources are conserved and utilized for the benefit of all Montanans in cooperation with landowners, state and federal agencies, and other partners.
www.macdnet.org

AmeriCorps National Service Programs



Montana Conservation Corps

Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) brings people together to serve on outdoor conservation projects and to develop them as leaders and citizens. Montana's largest AmeriCorps program, MCC has developed a versatile program that uses the power of service and the crew dynamic to mobilize a new generation while living, learning, and working outdoors to improve trails and habitats.

Jono McKinney
jono@mtcorps.org
mtcorps.org



Get things done by constructing safe and affordable housing for income-eligible families, strengthening communities and developing leadership skills. With Habitat AmeriCorps, you have the opportunity to serve in your community or in one of our locations throughout the United States.

<https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/longtermopportunities/ameri-corps>



JVCNW serves, examines, and acts upon the causes of social and environmental injustice, to promote peace, and to build a spirit of togetherness. Serve in solidarity with high need communities to boost educational achievement among First Nations children, help in domestic violence shelters and mental health clinics, and more.

jvcnorthwest.org



**AmeriCorps
NCCC Pacific
Region**

Strengthen communities and grow into a leader through team-based national service. You will complete at least four projects in different areas of your assigned region to address energy conservation, environmental stewardship, infrastructure improvement, natural and other disasters, and urban and rural development.

<https://americorps.gov/serve/fit-finder/ameri-corps-nccc>

The Governor's Office of Community Service (OCS) promotes and expands national service and community volunteerism in Montana.

OCS administers federal funding to AmeriCorps State programs in Montana, provides support to organizations, and encourages citizens of all ages and backgrounds to engage in service



AmeriCorps Service Programs

AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), an independent federal agency whose mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps consists of three programs: AmeriCorps State & National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

The Governor's Office of Community Service oversees eight AmeriCorps State programs in Montana that combined, mobilize over 500 members into service each year: Big Sky Watershed Corps, Community in Action Corps, Justice for Montanans Project, Montana Campus Compact, Montana Conservation Corps, and Montana State Parks AmeriCorps.

<http://serve.mt.gov/ameri-corps-in-montana/>



**AmeriCorps
Montana**

Youth Serve Montana Scholarship

Statewide, 100 high school students each receive a \$1,000 Youth Serve Montana scholarship every year. The Youth Serve Montana scholarship promotes volunteerism, encourages young leaders to further their education, and provides tuition assistance to Montana students attending college in-state.



Date: Applications open in the fall/winter. Scholarships are awarded in the spring.

<http://serve.mt.gov/ServeMT/youth-serve-montana-scholarships>



The ServeMontana Symposium is our signature, annual event. Each spring, the Symposium convenes hundreds of AmeriCorps and VISTA members serving in Montana to further opportunities for service, learning, and collaboration. Each year, a unique theme is chosen with corresponding sessions, speakers, and panels, along with a city-wide service project.

Date: Occurs in March coinciding with AmeriCorps Week

<http://serve.mt.gov/ServeMT/serve-montana-symposium>

Montana State Service Plan

The State Service Plan is a three-year framework for service, volunteerism, and emergency preparedness in Montana. The Plan is a requirement of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and is required under Montana law. Effective January 1, 2016, the SSP determines strategic goals and initiatives of the Montana Commission on Community Service.

Date: Current plan covers 2019-2021, <http://serve.mt.gov/About/State-Service-Plan>

ServeMontana Awards

ServeMontana Awards recognize individuals and groups of all ages and backgrounds who, through their dedication and commitment to community service, have enhanced civic life in Montana. These awards represent the best in positive change through service, volunteerism and community leadership.



We invite nominations for individuals and organizations who:

- Volunteer in activities result in lasting change and great benefit for people and places in Montana
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to serving their community
- Exhibit leadership in their service
- Represent determination and perseverance

Date: Applications accepted in winter and the award ceremony takes place late Spring.

<http://serve.mt.gov/servemontana-awards/>



Donate Life

ServeMontana encourages all Montana residents to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors, as the ultimate way of serving others. OCS partners with Life Center Northwest to co-host the Gift of Life Awards for families of those who became organ donors in Montana.

Date: Leaf requests are accepted on a rolling basis. The Gift of Life ceremony is each spring. <http://serve.mt.gov/Commission/organ-eye-tissue-donations>

Register to become a donor at www.lcnw.org or <https://dojmt.gov/driving/driver-licensing/#DLID2>



[facebook.com/ServeMontana](https://www.facebook.com/ServeMontana)



[@servemontana](https://www.instagram.com/serve_montana)

SERVE.MT.GOV

2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report

Distributed by:
 **Montana**
Office of Public Instruction
opi.mt.gov **Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent**



Survey

Physical Activity

Tobacco Use

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Sexual Behavior

Dietary Behaviors

Unintentional Injuries and Violence

Survey

This Summary Report complements the 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report and contains information regarding risk behaviors of Montana youth in relation to:

- Unintentional injuries and violence;
- Tobacco use;
- Alcohol and other drug use;
- Sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection;
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors; and
- Inadequate physical activity.

The 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was conducted in February 2021. The Montana YRBS results are based on a random sampling completed by 4,467 high school students. The results are representative of all students in grades 9-12 in Montana. The Office of Public Instruction acknowledges and appreciates the commitment, cooperation and support of the participating schools and their students.

Go to www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS to access all YRBS reports for Montana students in grades 7-8, Native American students on reservations, Native American students in urban schools, alternative school students, non-public accredited school students and students with disabilities. This Web site also contains Montana regional data, trend data, county-level maps, Montana and U.S. comparative data, and school-specific data.

For more information on the Montana YRBS, contact the Office of Public Instruction, Susan Court, (406) 444-3178 or scourt@mt.gov.

Survey

Physical Activity

Tobacco Use

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Sexual Behavior

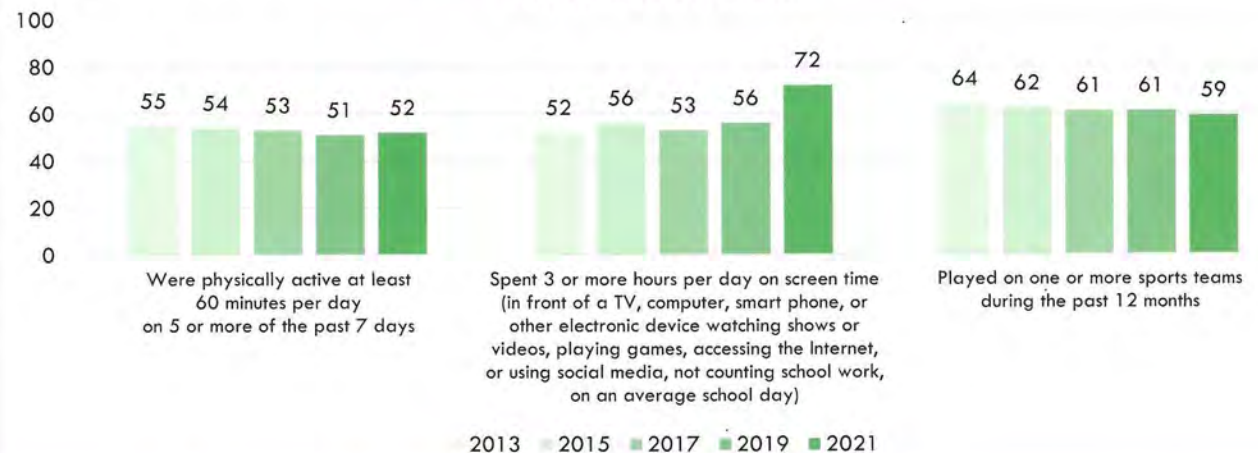
Dietary Behaviors

Unintentional Injuries and Violence

Physical Activity

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Percentage of students who . . .	Montana	Grade Level			
		9th	10th	11th	12th
Attended physical education (PE) class one or more days during an average school week	52%	80%	65%	30%	28%
Attended physical education (PE) class on all 5 days of the school week	22%	36%	25%	13%	11%
Were not physically active for 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days	11%	7%	10%	13%	16%
Had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active during the last 12 months	16%	18%	17%	14%	13%

Physical Activity / Inactivity (percentage of students)



Physical Activity

Tobacco Use

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

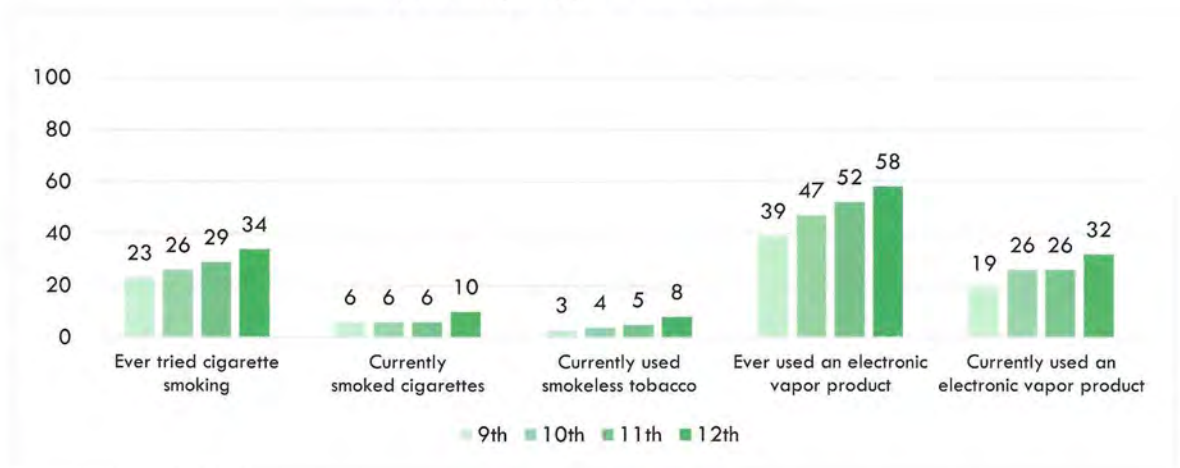
Sexual Behavior

Dietary Behaviors

Tobacco Use Behaviors

(percentage by grade level)

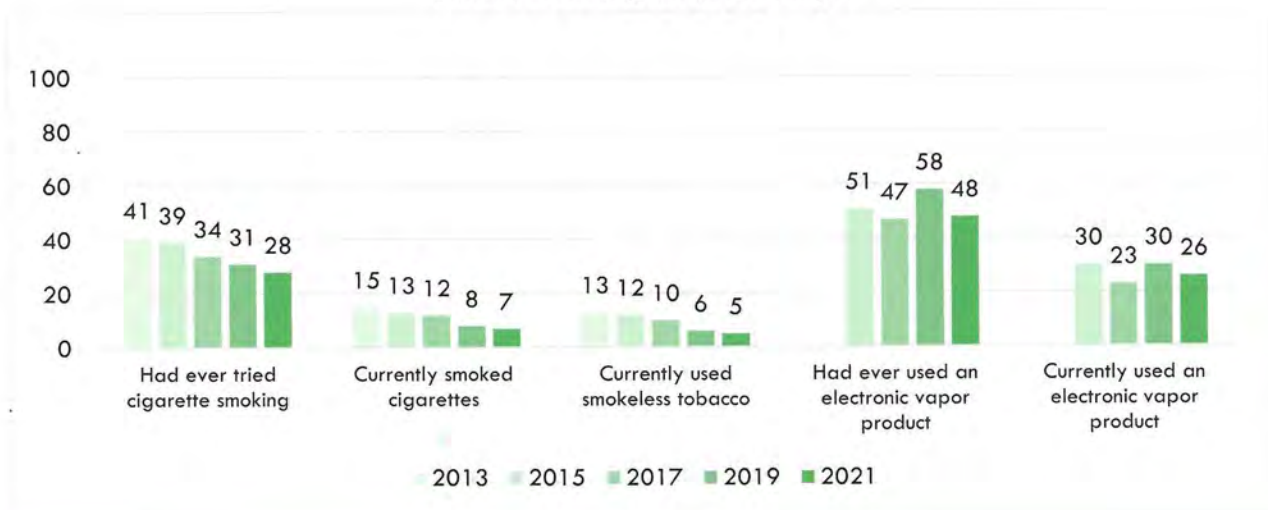
27%
of Montana high school students currently use a tobacco product (cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, or electronic vapor products)



Tobacco Use Trends

(percentage of students)

[Current is during the past 30 days]



Tobacco Use

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

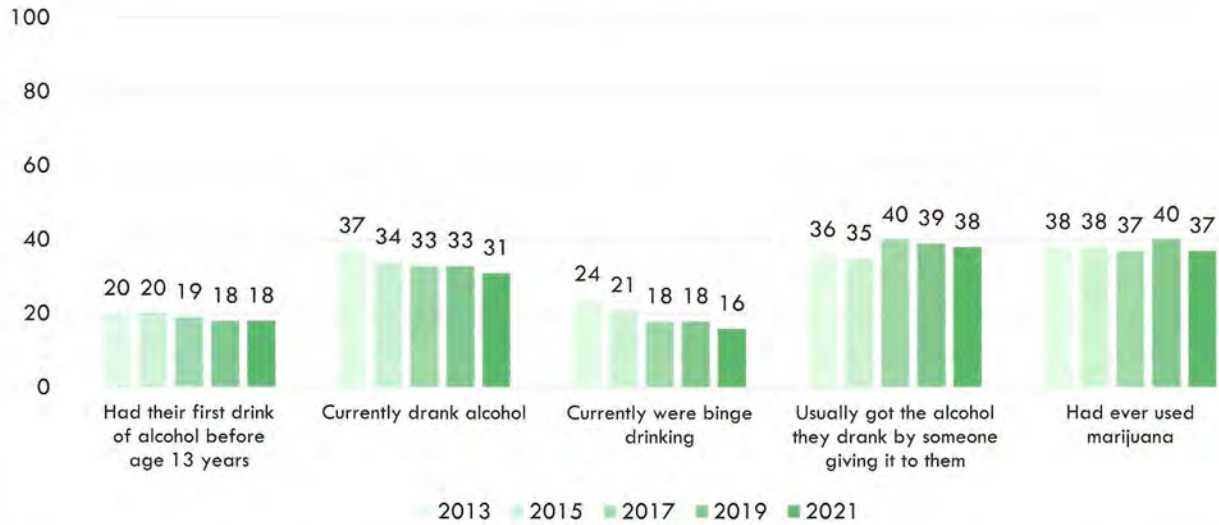
Sexual Behavior

Dietary Behaviors

Unintentional Injuries and Violence

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

(percentage of students)



OTHER DRUG USE Percentage of students who had ever (used) . . .	Montana	Grade Level			
		9th	10th	11th	12th
Marijuana	37%	26%	36%	41%	48%
Synthetic marijuana	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Prescription pain medicine	12%	11%	13%	11%	14%
Cocaine	4%	3%	3%	4%	7%
Inhalants	9%	11%	8%	8%	8%
Methamphetamines	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Ecstasy	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%
Used a hallucinogenic drug (such as LSD, acid, PCP, angel dust, mescaline, or mushrooms) during the past 30 days	6%	6%	5%	7%	7%
Been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the past 12 months	22%	22%	23%	24%	20%

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Sexual Behavior

Dietary Behaviors

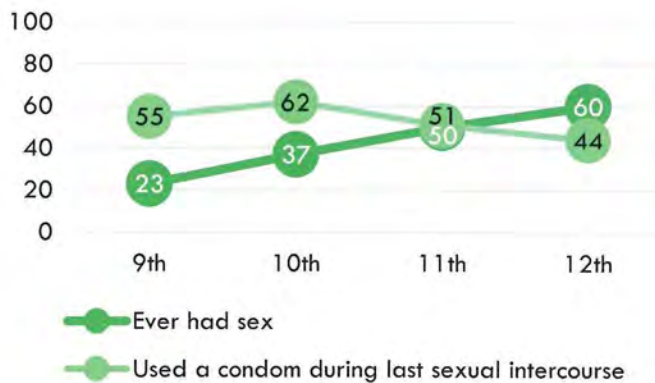
Unintentional Injuries and Violence

Sexual Behavior Trends

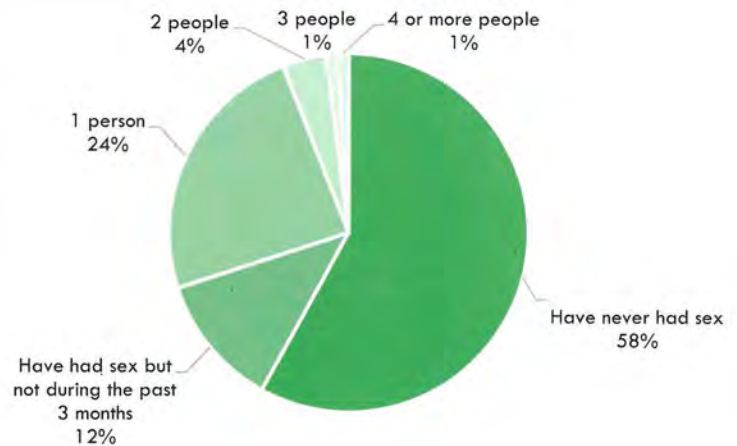
(percentage of students)



Sexual Activity and Condom Usage (by grade level)



Number of sexual partners past 3 months



Sexual Behavior

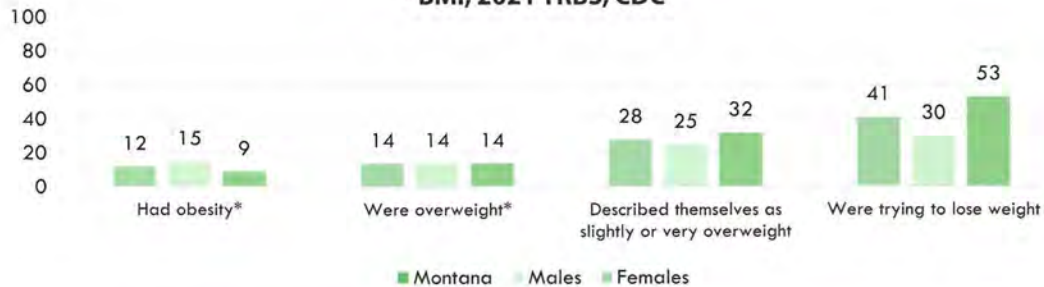
Dietary Behaviors

Unintentional Injuries and Violence

Weight Management

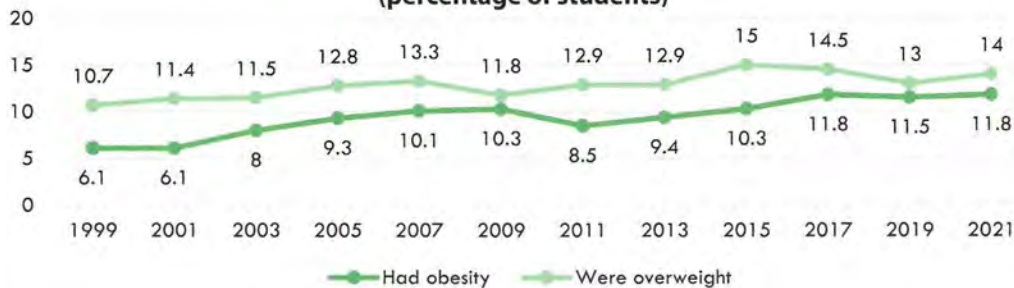
(percentage of students)

*BMI, 2021 YRBS, CDC



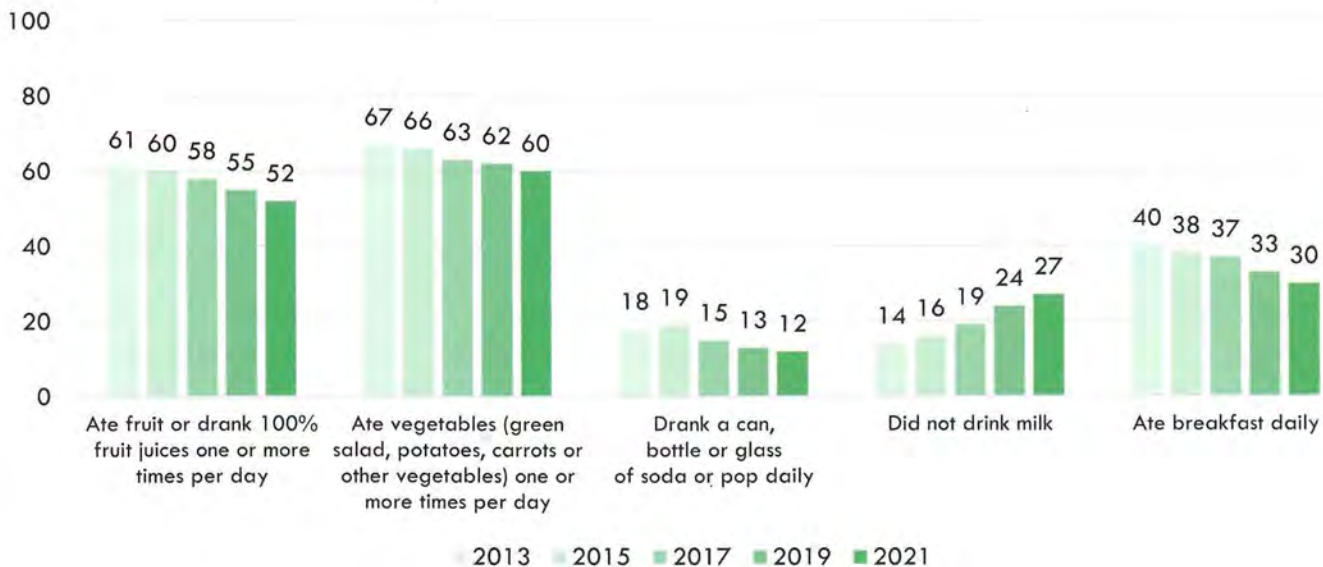
Obesity and Overweight trends

(percentage of students)



Dietary Behaviors

(percentage of students / past 7 days)

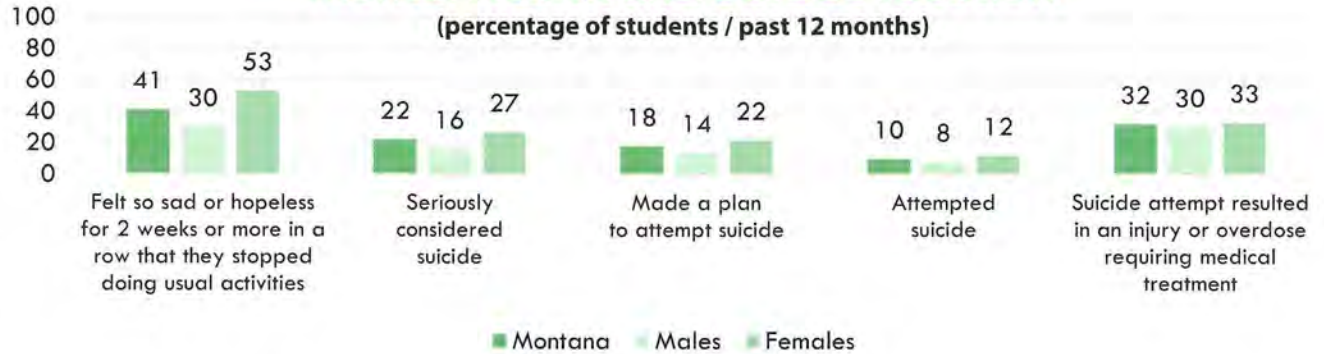


Dietary Behaviors

Unintentional Injuries and Violence

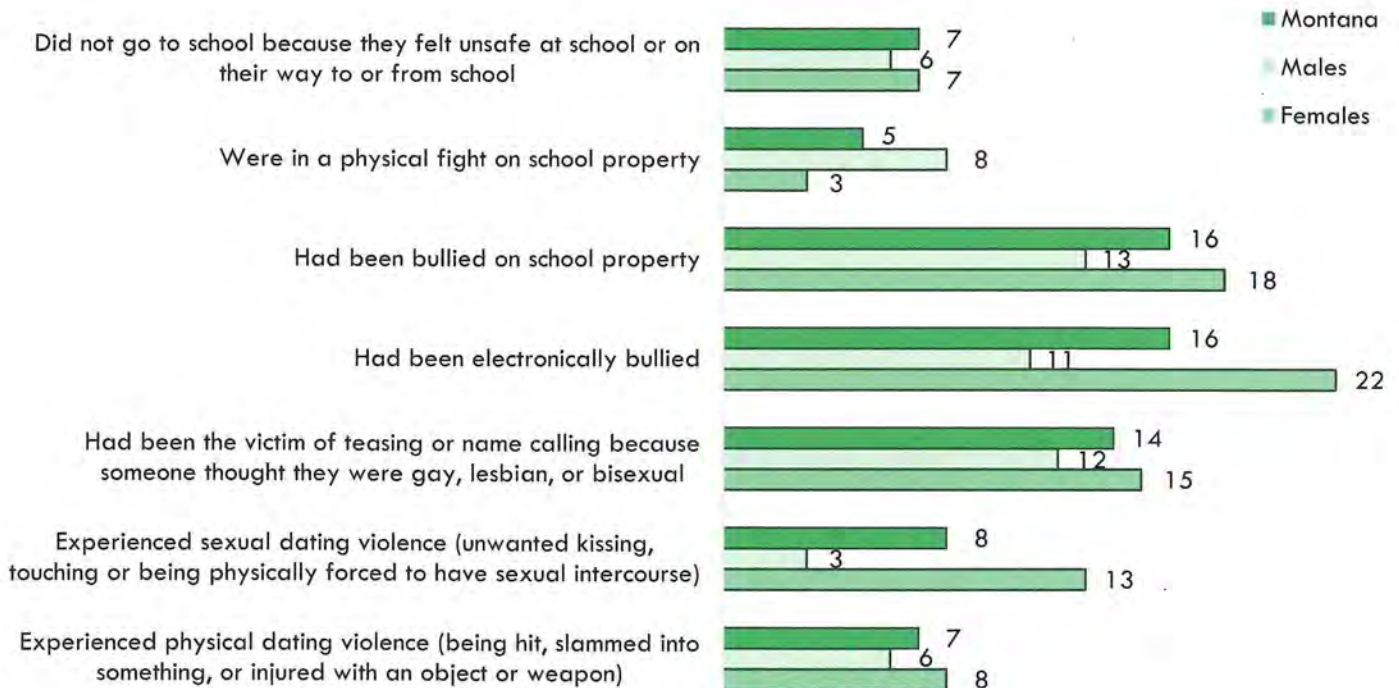
VEHICLE-RELATED BEHAVIORS Percentage of students who . . .	Montana	Grade Level			
		9th	10th	11th	12th
Always wore a seat belt when riding in a vehicle driven by someone else	46%	50%	47%	43%	43%
Always wore a seat belt when driving a vehicle	71%	70%	73%	73%	70%
Rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol/past 30 days	21%	22%	20%	18%	22%
Drove a car after they had been drinking/among drivers, past 30 days	8%	3%	5%	8%	13%
Texted or e-mailed while driving/among drivers, past 30 days	57%	27%	50%	66%	74%
Used the Internet or Apps on their cell phone while driving/among drivers, past 30 days	52%	33%	46%	57%	64%

Mental Health and Suicide Ideation



Intimidation and Bullying

(percentage of students/percentage of dating students/past 12 months)



Unintentional Injuries and Violence

Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Co-Sponsors:

Montana Office of Public Instruction
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
Montana Board of Crime Control
Billings Area Indian Health Services
Montana Department of Transportation – State Highway Traffic Safety Section Montana
Department of Justice – Special Services Bureau
Division of Adolescent and School Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Teachers of Promise Pathway (TOPP)

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courses through MSU-Northern.



Teachers of Promise Pathway (TOPP)

BEGIN YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION THROUGH TOPP

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courses through MSU-Northern.



Teachers of Promise Pathway

Become a Teacher! →

Do you have a passion for creativity and working with others? Do you want a career that transforms lives and makes a difference in the world? Have you been told you're a natural teacher? Have you considered becoming one?

Through "Teachers of Promise Pathway", you can explore your future as a teacher today! Earn college credits through dual-credit courses. Start your promising journey along the path to becoming a teacher with the TOPP program.

For more info, contact your school counselor or get in touch with Dr. Curtis Smeby, *Teachers of Promise Pathway Program Director*, at: smebyc@msun.edu or (406)-265-3517.



Begin your teaching journey today through MSU-Northern.



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Teachers of Promise Pathway

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Begin your teaching journey today through MSU-Northern.



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From: [Reed, Brian](#)
To: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
Subject: BOR Public Comment
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021 4:02:50 PM

Regarding early college, do we know to what degree (%) these courses are leading to enrollments in certificate, two-year, or eventual four-year programs?

Brian D. Reed, PhD
Associate Vice Provost for Student Success
University of Montana

From: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
To: [Faught, Charie](#)
Cc: [Lucon, Peter](#); [Reeves, JoAnna](#)
Subject: RE: Board of Regents Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:24:51 AM
Importance: High

Hello Charie,

Your public comment has been received. Thank you for your submission.

Thank you,

Jasmine Casanovas

Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Higher Education

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education | Montana University System

jcasanovas@montana.edu | 406.449.9127

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

From: Faught, Charie <CFaught@mtech.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Casanovas, Jasmine <jcasanovas@montana.edu>
Cc: Lucon, Peter <plucon@mtech.edu>; Reeves, JoAnna <jreeves1@mtech.edu>
Subject: Board of Regents Public Comment

Jasmine-

I would like to include the following e-mail as part of the next BOR public comment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I need to complete anything else.

Resolution: The Montana Tech Faculty Senate endorses the following resolution of the Montana University Faculty Association:

The Montana University Faculty Association Representatives (MUSFAR), which represents the faculty of the Montana University System, urges the Board of Regents to institute a vaccination requirement to help end the COVID pandemic.

Numerous vaccines are already required for the Montana University System and the Montana Annotated Code Title 20, Chapter 5, Part 4 states that postsecondary schools “may impose immunization

requirements as a condition of attendance that are more stringent than those required by this part.” Further, the constitutional authority and moral responsibility to implement a vaccine requirement for the campuses in the Montana University System lies with the MUS Board of Regents. The Regents *“have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system”* according to Section 9 of the Montana Constitution. To date, the Board of Regents has not publicly discussed their position or justification for *not* requiring vaccines to protect the entire campus community. The Board of Regents is charged with the health, safety, and wellbeing of the Montana University System. Why is the Board of Regents failing to act? Why are they not requiring vaccinations, which we know is the best-known solution to end the pandemic?

Communities across the state are in crisis and our campuses are at risk. Every county in the state with a MUS campus is at a “high level of community transmission for COVID-19” as defined by the CDC. Our hospitals are at capacity, considering “crisis of care standards,” and the National Guard has been deployed to help support our healthcare system. Montanans are dying each week because we are well under the vaccination percentage required to limit and end the spread of the disease. We implore the Montana State University Board of Regents to require vaccinations for students and staff across the Montana University System to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our campus communities. We are gravely concerned about the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. We are watching COVID cases rise, following reports on the rising deaths in our communities, and continue to stress the necessity for evidence-based mitigation strategies, at the system-wide level. Vaccinations are the most effective means to end the pandemic.

With the full FDA approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19

vaccine on August 23, over 1,000 public institutions across the country have instituted vaccine requirements for all members of their campus communities. We now have the best tool available to end this pandemic in an effective and safe vaccine.

Colleges across the nation, and in Montana, already require students to be vaccinated against viral diseases like mumps, measles, and rubella. These measurements are required for public health and the wellbeing of students and the campus. The COVID-19 vaccines are FDA approved, safe, and effective, and they should be required in the Montana University System.

There are no logistical barriers to providing vaccines. Indeed, it has never been easier to provide access to vaccinations as the infrastructure to administer vaccines in Montana is already up and running. Healthcare providers across our communities already provide vaccination clinics, many of them on college campuses. There is no shortage of vaccinations, they are easy to get, and free for everyone. We urge the Board of Regents to utilize the systems in place and require vaccinations for everyone in the Montana University System.

Without a vaccination requirement we are putting our students lives at risk, we are failing to provide them with access to a safe education; we are contributing to the crisis in our communities; and we are damaging the long-term health, safety, and economic stability of our state.

We want to work collectively towards ending this global pandemic and ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of our communities throughout Montana. We implore the Board of Regents to expand vaccination requirements to include the FDA approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

CHARIE FAUGHT, PHD, MHA

(she, her, hers)

Associate Professor,

Chair, Faculty Senate

CBB 204C

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MONTANA
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

From: [Jacob Kunze](#)
To: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 11:49:56 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Re Resolution Voicing Student Opposition To A Vaccination Requirement.pdf](#)

Hi Jasmine,

I have attached the resolution that Senator Yeager from Montana Western spoke on.

Thank You,

Jake Kunze | ASUMW President |
University of Montana Western | SUB Lower Level |
Office: 406-683-7611 | Cell: 406-301-3823 |





ASUMW Student Senate
Resolution 2021-01
Monday, October 11, 2021

For The Students
By The Students

'RESOLUTION VOICING STUDENT OPPOSITION TO A VACCINATION MANDATE'

Author(s): President Jacob Kunze, Vice President Jacob Christenson, Senator Garret Yeager, Senator Parker Stevens, Senator Katie Goodman, Senator Chloe Keith

WHEREAS, We the Associated Students of The University of Montana Western, representing the student body of UMW; strive to be a voice of the students and provide them the best representation possible; and

EXPRESSING, we the students of UMW are not in support of a vaccination mandate on campus; and

EMPHASIZING, our students would be the ones receiving the vaccine. Their opinions and thoughts deserve a voice in this decision; and

WHEREAS, after a survey of the students, 81.8% of our student respondents were against the idea of imposing a Covid-19 vaccination mandate; and

EMPHASIZING, over 3/4 of the student body represented in the survey were against the idea of a vaccine mandate; and

WHEREAS, the ramifications of said mandate could lead to a loss of students, faculty, and staff, who feel as though their need for choice on this issue outweighs that of their education and occupation within the University of Montana Western; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to stop a Covid-19 vaccine mandate as a requirement to attend the University of Montana Western and other schools within the Montana University System; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students of The University of Montana Western represented in a student wide survey are against the idea of imposing a Covid-19 vaccination mandate. Attached is the Covid-19 Vaccination Survey results and student statements.

Motion to: Approve	Senator Moved: Goodman	Seconded: Yeager
For: 12	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
		Date: 10/11/2021

Resolution Approved	X
Resolutions Rejected	

President Jacob Kunze
 Chair Javi Wiegman

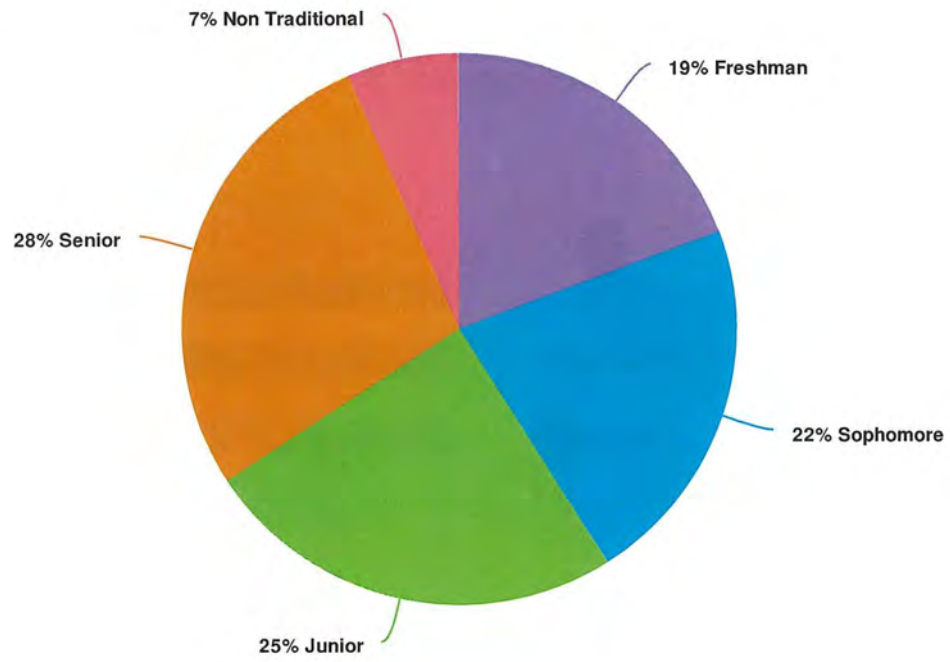
Report for ASUMW COVID Vaccination and Mask Requirement Survey

Response Counts



Totals: 336

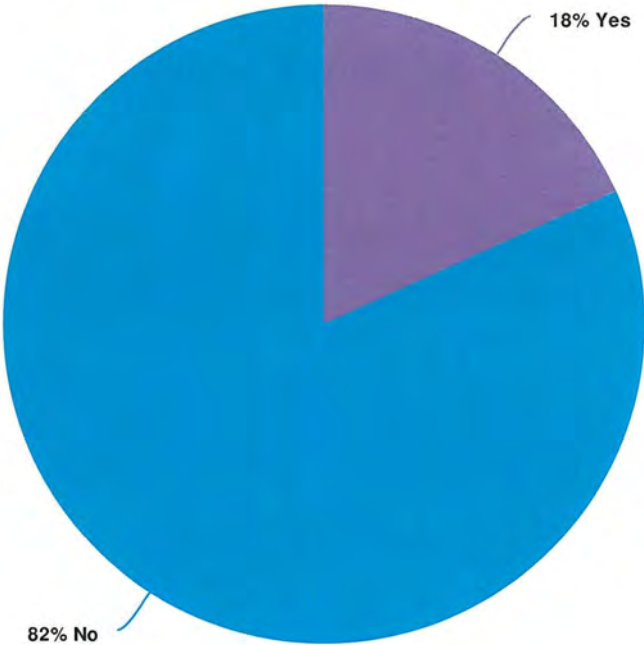
1. What year in school?



Value	Percent	Responses
Freshman	19.3%	65
Sophomore	21.7%	73
Junior	24.7%	83
Senior	27.7%	93
Non Traditional	6.5%	22

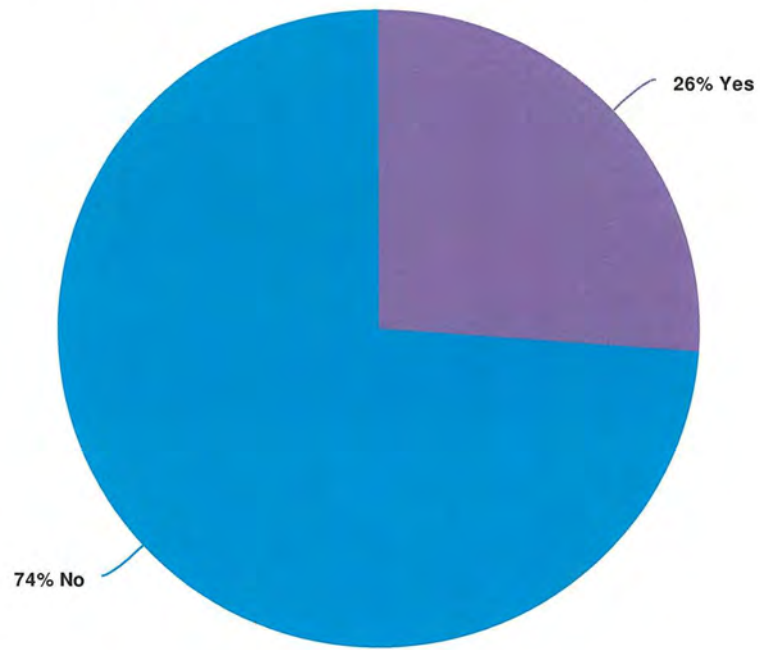
Totals: 336

2. Would you as a student support a COVID vaccination requirement to attend any public Montana university?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	18.2%	61
No	81.8%	275
		Totals: 336

3. Would you as a student support a mask requirement to attend any Montana Public University?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	26.2%	88
No	73.8%	248
		Totals: 336

4. Why did you choose yes or no for vaccine and mask requirements?

Filter: #4 Question "Would you as a student support a COVID vaccination requirement to attend any public Montana university?"

" is one of the following answers ("Yes", "No")

ResponseID Response

- | ResponseID | Response |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Because I hate masks and due to health reasons can not get the vaccine. |
| 3 | I don't think that it is any of anyone's business whether or not I get vaccinated. It's my private medical business. |
| 4 | You can not require anyone to take medications as it is their own choice. It is between them and their doctor. I think attendance would significantly decrease if you require vaccinations. |
| 5 | To keep myself and other safe while going to school. |
| 6 | It's literally easy to get vaccinated or just wear a mask on campus. |
| 7 | It should be optional for students. |
| 8 | Mask and vaccines should be a choice of the person. |
| 9 | I think that everyone has the right to choose their own way of protecting themselves from COVID, the flu, and any other illness that we may get while at school. Whether or not a student decides to get vaccinated, wear a mask, both of those, or neither of those is their own choice and it should not be made mandatory by the state or University. |
| 10 | I believe in medical freedom. The masks don't seem to help anyway or we wouldn't be back to square one, and you should not be able to force people, especially young college kids, to take a brand new vaccine with no evidence of safety or efficacy. |
| 11 | I choose yes for the vaccine because I have personally researched on it and I think its the best way to protect our selves from getting the Covid-19 virus or getting less sick by the affects of it. I choose no for masks because for many students they are very uncomfortable and make it harder for them to focus and work efficiently, and in some cases breath. |
| 12 | By having a vaccine and mask mandate in place, the university would be able to minimize the risk of danger for students. Furthermore, by having online classes that were equivalent to the in person classes for individuals who chose to not be vaccinated, it would be able to minimize the risk of exposure for all parties involved. |
| 13 | Do not want to get the vaccine without further research. |
| 14 | It is not a university's authority to say what personal health choices we have are right or wrong |

ResponseID Response

- 15 Personal Freedom/Rights/Amendments I should not be forced to do something that has not helped one bit! It has been 3 years and nothing changed, what comes comes and goes.
- 16 I chose no for both because it should be a personal choice when it comes to any health related decisions and schools don't have the right to bar someone from getting an education if they chose not to where a mask or get vaccinated.
- 17 It should not be required to get a vaccine, that is why I chose no.
- 18 Vaccine isn't what they said. Keeps changing. Still don't know what side affects are and they can't be held accountable if something in the vaccine is bad. Masks just don't work. Have many studies proven masks are useless.
- 19 I chose to say no because it's taking away students' rights and beliefs when attending a university. Many religions, families or students do not believe in vaccines; therefore, you would be hindering their ability to better themselves and their education when requiring a mask or vaccine. I also received the vaccine myself and ended up getting a blood clot. My life has forever change for the worse after receiving the vaccine. Therefore, I highly recommend this is not made a mandate and to let individuals have a say in their own well-being.
- 20 I believe that it is my choice to do these things and it is against my beliefs and wants. If I am forced to be apart of this group I will no longer go to school!
- 21 I have had a severe vaccine injury before that has left me with a chronic disease that drastically impacts every day of my life and leaves me at elevated risk for a whole host of other diseases. This was from a "safe and effective" vaccine. There are risks to any medication and it is not the role of the institution to make medical decisions for the students.
- 22 I choose yes for a vaccine because I myself am vaccinated and I think that the vaccine is the only way to create some type of herd immunity. I think if we had to get vaccinated, we shouldn't have to wear masks as that was part of the appeal of being vaccinated.
- 23 As a student I feel like being forced to get the vaccine is a big choice for my own health, which is something that is my choice and not the universities decision. Masks on the other hand are not going to hurt anyone to wear if the virus is heavy in the local area.
- 24 For Vaccine, no, because I believe there should be a choice to get a vaccine and go to a college. It is only going to help with symptoms and won't stop anyone from getting Covid. Masks are already required so I said yes
- 25 Because I do not want to wear a mask and don't see the need to. If I'm going to get sick than so be it.
- 26 I chose no for these because I believe that it is your own right to do these things to your own body. It is not like the flu is mandated.

ResponseID Response

- 27 Everyone should have the right to chose and right to do what makes them the most comfortable. There is no need to punish those of us that are not concerned about COVID for the few that are. There is no reason why those worried cannot stay home or wear a mask, no need to force everyone else into it. By enforcing mask and/or vaccines freedoms are being taken and ignored. It is a huge overstep to mandate/require either of these. I think that you will find the majority of students will agree with me. I will not go into the studies on masks being ineffective or the health hazards that go along with constant mask wearing. Support Montanan's rights and DO NOT enforce vaccines or mask wearing.
- 28 Requiring people to get the vaccine isn't going to do anything, because people with the vaccine are still getting Covid so it is pointless. Same thing with masks, nothing is going to change so requiring students to do something like that just so they can get an education is ridiculous
- 29 Making a Vaccine a requirement is a violation of our rights to choose if we want it or not. Just because we disagree on ways to deal with COVID does not mean that we should be deprived of going to get a college education in Montana. Then what do the Montana residents do? If they go out of state tuition is way more money. That just is not fair in my opinion. With that being said if masks are an alternative to the vaccine I would support that. But honestly, to me, it is a joke. Students attending college are not at the ages where they cannot recover from the Covid Virus.
- 30 Requiring people to get the vaccine isn't going to do anything, because people with the vaccine are still getting Covid so it is pointless. Same thing with masks, nothing is going to change so requiring students to do something like that just so they can get an education is ridiculous
- 31 If everybody had to be fully vaccinated and mask up, COVID in the college would slowly wipe out. When someone chooses not to, and they have COVID, they spread it to someone else, then that person spreads it. It's a domino effect, a spreading wildfire. People should not put other people at risk of dying due to a belief. Not only that, that person is much more vulnerable themself to be infected with a deadly virus.
- 32 COVID-19 isn't going away, It may be more serious than the flu, but we can't force students to get a vaccination if they believe that it's not best for them. I myse If am vaccinated, but if students choose they don't want to get vaccinated, then it's their decision to deal with the more severe consequences of missing school and getting sicker than if they were vaccinated. We have gotten to a point where if people don't want to be vaccinated then they simply won't go to school because they have become convinced that it's against their beliefs or political views. All that mandating a vaccination or mask mandate will do will make more students drop out of school. Also in regards to the mask mandate, I haven't heard of a single student who wants to wear a mask, most would rather risk Covid than have to wear a mask everyday, and the students who think a mask mandate is a good idea will wear a mask regardless.
- 33 I feel as citizens of the United States we should have the freedom to choose what we want to do. If you want to be masked and vaccinated, go for it, but don't force others to.

ResponseID Response

- 34 I don't believe anyone should be forced to do anything. We should have a choice in what we put in our body or not and it isn't fair to make someone get vaccinated in order to get a higher education.
- 35 I would not support a vaccination requirement. You are taking away a student's right and choice when requiring the vaccine. This is not even a national mandate vaccine and with making it mandated in schools is wrong. Let it be up to the student if they want to get vaccinated or not. That should not be a decision that is made by someone else, especially when research is still being conducted on the vaccine. At the moment, there have been multiple different strains of the virus. This would mean there should be many different strains of the vaccine. One of the vaccines may help reduce symptoms of the virus, but does not necessarily stop it. I look at it like a very intense flu. There are a lot of people who do not want the vaccine and the flu has led to, on average since 2010, between 12,000-61,000 deaths but we do not make that a requirement. We leave it up to the choice of the people. That is what this country was founded on. Have we forgotten that? As for the masks, I am not as fired up about. I get it but also, I think students should have a choice.
- 36 Vaccine or no vaccine, with the vaccine you can still carry covid, give covid to others, and still get sick from covid. If you aren't any more protected from covid then why get the vaccine? The only thing that really helps with covid is being healthy. 80% of people who are harmed by covid are overweight, unhealthy, or have some sort of health problems they were born with. As far as masks go, they should be up to the user, if you are scared of covid then wear your mask if you are a healthy active individual and couldn't care less about covid then don't wear one. I understand wearing one inside cause if not the school would get in trouble. Instead of making a vaccine mandatory, make going to the gym and eating better a requirement, that's what will really lower the curve not a damn vaccine.
- 37 I am not against a mask requirement totally, if we can prevent the school from shutting down we need to do what is best (like wearing a mask if that is necessary) but the requirement for a vaccination violates my religious beliefs.
- 38 Many universities require vaccines for measles, mumps, etc. Why is the Covid vaccine any different? Masks should be mandatory if it aligns with the county needs. If our Covid numbers continue to go up, why wouldn't you want to try to reduce the number? Why would you want the number to keep going up and people to continue to get sick? To be a successful school, we need students in classes, athletes to play sports, etc. If people continue to get sick, people won't be able to participate in that same way. Once our numbers are down, this should be reexamined.
- 39 I personally believe the vaccine shouldn't be forced upon students to receive an education in order to pursue a career.
- 40 bc its my choice and i dont think the mask really work all it is a bad flu
- 41 I feel that being required to get a vaccine is unconstitutional. It is my body and I should get to choose what I put in it. There are many risks with some of the vaccine, including infertility in women. So I do not think it is worth the risk at this point in my life.

ResponseID Response

- 42 I think we all live in the land of the free and should not be forced or required to do anything to attend a public school. Im sure the amount of people going to school and teaching at schools would decrease dramatically if there was a vaccine requirement especially. We should not be required to take a vaccine where the people taking it are the test dummies for the mRNA type vaccines. These vaccines have been around for less than a year and were created in less than a year where the flu shot took decades to develop and perfected to have little to no side effects, maybe if the covid vaccines were around for decades and there has been years of clinical trials and testing done, only then will I consider getting this vaccine. And I would refuse to go to any school in the USA that has any sort of vaccine requirement except for the stuff we got as children such as polio and mumps vaccines.
- 43 No for vaccine requirement because I feel it's a personal choice and people should be allowed to choose not to get it.
- 44 The Pfizer vaccine has been FDA approved, not only out of emergency. We already have certain vaccines required for attending school, so this would just add one more. People can all be safer by attempting to stop the spread of COVID by wearing a mask. This has been proven by research.
- 45 I said no to Vaccine cause me personally I know I could have a severe allergic reaction to it and enforcing it would be inequitable. I said yes to the mask cause even though I won't get the shot I could still wear my mask for the people around me to feel comfortable.
- 46 I believe that everyone has the right to make decisions based on what feels right for themselves personally.
- 47 I believe we should have the freedom to make our own decisions.
- 48 I won't put the vaccine in my body without knowing how it affects me in all ways. I want babies one day and there isn't hardly enough data to prove it doesn't affect women's reproductive systems. There is not enough research. I don't need to wear a mask because there is not enough strong data that supports it. I have had covid 2 times already and it has been bad, I will admit. However, I have never got any form of vaccine except for measles, mumps, and rubella. My body. My choice. We live in America were things such as what we put in our body should be a free choice not mandated. I will not be attending Montana western if vaccines are required to attend in person classes.
- 49 Vaccine doesn't guarantee people still won't get COVID or expose others to COVID. Same thing with masks. No proof masks or vaccines actually work.
- 50 As someone who is already vaccinated, I have no problem with the vaccine. I have a problem with personal choice, and the fact that students would lose this right. Asking students to consider the vaccine is very different from forcing them and at the end of the day, education is the most important thing this institution provides.
- 51 I choose no, for both questions/options, because at a public university it is our constitutional right to choose how we maintain our own personal health.

ResponseID Response

- 52 It should be up to the individual and not a requirement.
- 53 I chose No for the vaccine and mask requirement because I think even though it might help it is pointless. I don't want to wear a mask to go into class, and I absolutely will not be vaccinated for COVID. If I get it then that's that. I am not afraid of the virus. It is like any other sickness. People die from the flu and other sicknesses. I will not support mask mandates, and if we are required to become vaccinated on campus I will drop out without hesitation. I am not saying this isn't a serious matter but wearing masks and people being afraid of this virus is getting old. If you are afraid of the virus get the option to go remote, or don't be on campus at all.
- 54 If someone wants to wear a mask and/or get vaccinated. That is a personal choice. My primary doctor asked if I was going to get the vaccine and I said no, and his response was that I am a 20-year-old in perfect health so that's okay. Not everyone wants to get a vaccine that was made rushed and that's okay. If people want to get it, that's okay too. Mandating a vaccine is going to drop enrollment by a lot. People shouldn't be forced to do something that they don't want to do.
- 55 I don't think they should be required at all because I don't think they help and it shows, and even if you have the vaccine you still have to wear a mask so I don't get the point.
- 56 I answered no as I believe it is a violation of our rights. The mask and vaccine should be optional for that person to decide based on a person's beliefs. Forcing people into something they do not believe in whether that be religious beliefs or just personal I believe is not constitutionally right.
- 57 There isn't enough research for the vaccine to be proven effective. I don't think it should be mandatory but should be a choice each individual person makes for themselves. I think this for a mask mandate as well. It should be up to the individual person and if a mandate goes into effect for the vaccine I think public schools in Montana will have a significant decrease in attendance because a student and/or faculty/staff would feel like their opinion doesn't matter.
- 58 Because it's not up to the university what I believe.
- 59 Vaccines have wiggle room since the idea of recurring a shot isn't medically viable for some people, but they are very helpful in preventing spread, especially to those who can't get vaccinated themselves. It's less black and white. Anyway, masks also make a very significant impact on others' health, for the positive, while being a very minor obstruction for the people wearing them. It's social responsibility, and should at least be encouraged.
- 60 This pandemic is a bunch of bullshit and it's just like catching the common cold! This is wrong going against the constitution! The vaccine is killing people.
- 61 You have to get vaccinated for public elementary school, why wouldn't you for college either?

ResponseID Response

- 62 Vaccines are designed to GET RID of a infectant. This vaccine does not do this, in fact at best it only lessens the effects of contagant. The masks are not effective in that not one person can wear a mask without touching it which then spreads the germs anyway. Let alone you are trying to force medical procedures on people without definitive scientific data that the long term, short term side affects are not dangerous. So far every study has different results. An organization that is being paid for a service (which all schools are) should not have any authority to require its customers to get treatment or be subject to forced compliance.
- 63 As a student I am paying for the service of the school and feel that any requirements that force me to get a shit or wear a mask is very controlling and should be left to the persons personal feelings. What I do to my body and what I wear is no concern of any faculty and as a paying student I feel the University Staff and faculty have no right to force vaccination or mask requirements upon me and my peers.
- 64 I feel it is against our rights for a university to require a vaccination that not everyone feels completely comfortable with. If a person feels inclined to get one, great that is their choice but it should not be forced upon anyone. If someone is truly that uncomfortable with COVID stay home and do your classes virtually.
- 65 I feel that a requirement on vaccines and masks will hinder people from enrolling in college, which will consequently cause an uproar because everyone has their own individual beliefs on the topic of masks and vaccines, and thousands of people in the country don't want the vaccine, but still want to further their education. Requiring these for said education is effectively taking rights away from people based on their beliefs.
- 66 The establishment has a right to "refuse service" to those unvaccinated if they want to. It's not an infringement on anybody's individual rights, if they don't like it they can find a different university.
- 67 Because I do not believe in the vaccine. Will not take it.
- 68 Both the vaccine and the masks lessen the spread of COVID-19
- 69 I think it should be personal choice. If a student feels safer if they wear a mask and/or getting vaccinated that is their choice. I don't think it is right to take away our personal freedoms for a small portion of the population.
- 70 It is our moral and ethical obligation to minimize the threshold of disease into oblivion. Better is the ounce of prevention than the pound of cure.
- 71 I am against the vaccine and strongly disagree with the mandate. I feel that it is my decision and not others to make for me.
- 72 I think if you have covid you shouldn't even go to campus until you are healthy again. If you are sick, then you really shouldn't show up either.

ResponseID Response

- 73 Because I believe it should be my personal choice to get the vaccine. I don't support a mask mandate either, but at least it is not a large medical decision to wear a mask. The University does not need to be inserting itself into my medical decisions.
- 74 I am not in support of the vaccine or mask mandates for many reasons. First and foremost, we will in America, the greatest country because of our freedom. I do not disagree that COVID-19 is indeed real and dangerous, but I do believe we should have the freedom to protect our own health the way we feel necessary as individuals. We should not be forced, threatened, or persuaded to get a vaccine that is still so new just to be able to continue our education at a university. As far as masks go, that should also be a choice, I personally do not believe masks are the best cure/prevention method to giving or receiving COVID. There are studies out there that say both, that they are and are not effective, but if the majority of students on our campus do not want to wear them, required or not, those students will either continue to not wear them or wear them ineffectively. So again, I believe it should be a choice. Everyone who is vaccinated or wears a mask can do that and feel protected against those who do not want to get vaccinated or wear a mask.
- 75 Yes, I would okay with a mask when cases rose, but to force students to take an experimental shot should not be required and is unethical.
- 76 I choose no to either one because I don't believe I would attend school here anymore if vaccination is required. Mask mandates I can deal with because I did it last year. I repeat, I would not attend school in Montana if vaccinations were required. Mask requirements are pointless in my eyes. Everyone can't breath so we pull it down anyways. Most people will get covid from going and hanging out with other people. No one wears masks when they are around there friends outside of mandates. People get sick of wearing them so I believe it is making people want to go out and do things with others without a mask. Its actually having an opposite affect than what the mandates are trying to do.
- 77 Because masks are not helping stop the spread. They are making people sick. Masks are not worn correctly making it pointless. The vaccine does not stop the spread of Covid and does not stop you from getting Covid. No one knows the long term effects and I have personally seen someone effected by the vaccine. I would be highly dissatisfied in our school to force vaccines.
- 78 We require other vaccines for students, we should include the covid vaccine. Masks are proven to reduce the spread of the virus so they should be required.
- 79 It's important to keep everyone safe and healthy. Being considerate of others by wearing a mask shows what kind of a person you are, which reflects on the university. COVID won't just go away by forgetting about it, everyone needs to do their part to help stop the spread and get Montana back to being a low COVID cases state.
- 80 It violates our rights to have a choice of what we do with our bodies.

ResponseID Response

- 81 I don't think the vaccine should be required because nobody has any idea of the long term affects of it, and college students are young and should not be required to take a vaccine that has not been proven for an extended period of time. I would like to add that, I am fine with wearing a mask as long as the vaccine is not required.
- 82 I think it protects the safety of all students and others who are on campus.
- 83 I personally would not like to get it. However, I am not going to let a vaccine and a mask ruin my chances in a career that I have wanted since I was 5 years old. I think it is unconstitutional to require someone to do something they aren't comfortable with but again I will not let something like this take me out of school.
- 84 At this point, everyone who would like to be vaccinated has had that opportunity. Everyone else is accepting the risk of not getting the vaccine. It is their personal choice. My body, my choice. Why is that only accepted when talking about abortions? It is unconstitutional to require vaccines and masks. Show me the science that actually proves that masks do anything. Show me that there are no other ways to be protected from the virus than the vaccine. I've searched for answers. I have educated myself on the topic and can show you that masks do nothing unless under extremely specific circumstances. I can show you that there are other things besides the vaccine to provide protection.
- 85 There should be room for personal choice and freedom when it comes to covid guidelines on campus and in all other areas of society. Enforcing a vaccine mandate would cause all universities in Montana to lose a great amount of their student body, especially in Dillon. I can deal with wearing masks, even though I would defiantly rather not, but forcing me to put a new vaccine in my body will result in me finding another area to pursue a career. If you want the vaccine, get it, if you don't, don't. There should be no judgment for either choice.
- 86 I do not support any of these requirements, I prefer to keep my rights of freedom and keep my natural immunity. I have had many friends miscarry babies, and another close friend have a blot clot in her brain and then residual clots near the vaccine area. It destroys your reproductive system. Honestly it is just for others to feel safe. It is pointless and a waste of time. I think this is all unnecessary and I believe people should not be mandated to do things to there body just because the "Government" thinks its for the best. So there for I do not support the vaccine and mask requirement.
- 87 Because I personally know people that have been sick with COVID and if we can slow the spread of this disease then we need to be doing everything we can to.
- 89 I believe it should be a personal choice to get the vaccine or wear a mask

ResponseID Response

- 90 I have seen to many people get sick from this Vaccine and some people are allergic to Vaccines which being one of the reasons I'm not getting it. I don't think it's fair that schools would require student's to get the vaccine when they don't know why they are or aren't getting it. Having a mask requirement isn't as bad but it's not as good either. Really a mask doesn't do anything if someone still isn't washing there hands or covering there mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze people are still going to get sick with a mask if people just sneeze or cough in the mask they just reinfect themselves and they won't get better. If the schools do require the vaccine to go to school are they just going to kick out or not allow those students who aren't getting the vaccine to quit or not come to school then that's discrimination and the school could lose money. So that's why I wouldn't support the requirement of the vaccination but I'm iffy on the mask thing.
- 91 No!
- 92 Because it keeps others and your self from spreading germs
- 93 Do not support nor trust the vaccine.
- 94 I chose no because this goes against the freedoms of which this country is built on. If someone wants to wear a mask or get vaccinated it is their choice and shouldn't be and pushed on others. Having the students choose will stop funding for schools because no one will want to come to school and get a degree, and it will ruin lives of future students.
- 95 I do not think someone should be forced to get vaccinated or have a mask mandate. I do not believe in the vaccine because of my religion so I will not be getting it.
- 96 I think asking us to wear a mask and telling us we hve to be vaccinated are two very different requirements
- 97 I feel as though getting the vaccine is a personal decision and some students may have personal reasons for not wanting to get the vaccine. However masks or face Shields are a harmless way to reduce the spread of Covid.
- 98 Masks are intended to keep the wearer from transmitting sickness, so I do believe it is a good idea for those that are sick to wear masks or better yet stay home and get well. I don't believe that students should be refused an education if they opt not to take the vaccine. Ultimately the vaccine is to protect yourself from any sickness that may occur. If a student decides not to take a vaccine then they are taking that risk alone. If a student does have the vaccine then they should not have to worry about what anyone else has chosen because they are protected.
- 99 We should have the freedom to choose what we put into our bodies, and we don't yet know what the potential repercussions are for taking the Covid 19 vaccine. Masks shouldn't be required because they don't make a difference in virus transmission, which has been scientifically proven. If I cough and water droplets can be seen coming through the mask, why would it stop an even smaller virus?
- 100 It's stupid.

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- 101 I chose no for requiring the vaccine because I feel this should be treated similarly to the flu shot. Each person should have a choice in whether or not to get it. I chose yes for the mask mandate because I feel that it is the simplest proven method that people can take. Requiring a mask should be treated similarly to no shirt, no shoes, no service. Just add no mask into the statement.
- 102 Besides the vaccine possibly giving people health altercations, I chose no because I think it should be free will. I believe it is against the constitution to mandate a vaccine on people regardless if the vaccine is good or bad.
- 103 Vaccines save lives. If we don't reach a 90 percent vaccination threshold, the pandemic is going to get much worse and much longer. There should have been a national requirement for the vaccine. There is no logical or religious reason to not get a vaccine.
- 104 Being a safe and effective method of confronting the virus, it is important that all who can should be inoculated, especially given the close quarters of dorm living and classroom sizes make masking less effective.
- 105 It's a free country, it's the choice of the person, not the government at any level.
- 106 I feel comfortable wearing a mask and getting vaccinated, however some people may not.
- 107 The decision of anything health related should be the choice of the individual. The government/colleges should not have the right to dictate the health of others. Let people make the decision for themselves.
- 108 Many people are unable to get the vaccine due to personal beliefs and also due to medical reasons that can put them at risk. While masks are a bit easier to manage, it still can create a danger for people with breathing issues.
- 109 The CDC proved it helped and if it can help protect people, we should.
- 110 I believe that it is a personal choice and students who do not have the same beliefs should not be forced to be vaccinated/wear a mask.
- 111 I don't feel like I need to get stabbed, I'm a healthy adult and have already had covid and recovered just fine
- 112 Whether or not you chose to wear a mask and or get your vaccination is a personal choice. If a student is paying tuition to that university they have the right to decide, they are paying big bucks to go there, so how they want to do it is up to them.
- 113 I think it's not fair for students to be required to get vaccinated.

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- 114 I believe that due to the political implications that have been attached to vaccines, and masks to a point, has created a new trend of discrimination against peoples personal choice. And in many cases has led to forms of bullying due to vaccine status and mask beliefs.
- 115 I believe that people should have the right to choose to be vaccinated with the Covid 19 vaccine purely due to the lack of research behind the vaccine. However, I do believe that masks should be mandatory so we can stay in-person.
- 116 Nobody should be forced to get the vaccine to attend a university. It should be our choice. If one is scared to get covid, stay home.
- 117 I said yes to a vaccine because herd immunity is important. If we are all vaccinated, the chance of spreading the virus and having life-threatening symptoms is severely lessened. Vaccines are required for other diseases, like meningitis, to attend college. The vaccines make universities a safer place for everyone.
- 118 Health care is personal information and should not be forced onto anyone and with many people religious beliefs have a huge effect on health care and they shouldn't not be able to further their education just because they are not vaccinated
- 119 Vaccination and masks have shown a decrease in severe cases of COVID-19 that lead to hospitalization and/or death.
- 120 I do not want anyone to be excluded from getting an education.
- 121 Because I got Covid and currently have to quarantine and miss class because of it. I also have family who are all high risked if they get it. I feel like it would be safer if we continue to do in person learning.
- 122 Your choice
- 123 I think people should be able to choose what they want to do. Whether that be vaccinated or wear a mask or not
- 124 The vaccines I struggle with because people sometimes can't get it for other reasons aside from not wanting to and believing in a conspiracy. I also worry that it would also prove people's beliefs that their rights are being in fringed upon. So I'm uncertain of it I think I would help the pandemic end sooner though. Masks on the other hand unless they have a medical or mental (PTSD, anxiety, and things of that sort) condition I think people can all where masks they suck but you get used to them and again it's another step in hopefully ending the pandemic
- 125 It should be everyone's own choice. We are paying to go to school now we aren't in high school anymore where we don't have choices.

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- 126 I feel as though, for a public school, everyone should have the opportunity to choose if they are getting the vaccine or would like to wear a mask or not. It is up to personal preference. Mandating will only divide people more and, honestly, some may choose to attend another school solely because of a mandate.
- 127 I think it should be a students choice to do either. We are all adults, we should not have our rights taken away just to attend school.
- 128 Because students shouldn't be forced to get a vaccine if they don't want to just like the flu shot
- 129 I believe you have to right to choose if you are vaxxed or not. If you want to get vaxxed u can very easily. We should not have to wear masks if anyone who wants to be vaxxed can be.
- 130 Both are violations of human rights and is an infringement upon our freedom.
- 131 As a college student, and for a majority of my peers, the Covid-19 pandemic as affected us greatly. With more knowledge and a vaccine available if we so choose, we should also be able to assume the risk of this virus. It is part of our constitutional freedom to be able to make these choices for ourselves. If we are comfortable not wearing a mask and not getting vaccinated, that should be our personal choice.
- 132 I don't support the requirements for the vaccine or the mask requirements at all, my reason is that people should have a choice if they want to wear a mask or if they want to get the vaccine that should be a choice that the person makes. The university or state shouldn't be able to make that choice for the person.
- 133 I chose no because I think as adults we can make our own decisions about what we feel is best for our personal health.
- 134 Prevention is key
- 135 I believe it's somebody's personal choice whether to vaccinate or wear a mask. Even though I'm vaccinated, I can understand why someone would be against it.
- 136 Now that there is a vaccine we should not longer worry about the coronavirus. People who are worried about the virus can get the vaccine. It's that simple.
- 137 I feel that both of the mandates for a mask and vaccine are violating ,y constitutional
- 138 Forcing a vaccine mandate restricts the abilities of students to attend the university and does not promote equal rights to participation in further education and goes against freedom of choice
- 139 I am not gonna get forced into getting the vaccination if I don't want to do it that is my choice it's my freedom. I can handle the mask requirement it would be nice not to have the mask mandate but I'm definitely not getting the vaccine.

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- 140 I believe in making my own choices. Thank you for coming to my ted talk.
- 141 Freedom to choose what's right for me and my life
- 142 Because the vaccine doesn't do anything besides maybe lessen the symptoms. I got through it once I can again. Masks don't do anything they are pointless. There are many proven studies that show masks don't work.
- 143 I Chose no for the vaccine because people should be able to choose if they want the vaccine or not and if they want to wear a mask or not
- 144 Mask requirements have no use and cases continue to rise even when we are masked they don't need to become a staple of society double standards are so annoying
- 145 Masks don't work and a vaccine mandate isn't fair. People shouldn't be forced to wear a mask or get vaccinated if they don't want to, if others are worried they can worry about themselves and go get vaccinated if they want to and wear a mask if they want to. It should be a choice, never a requirement.
- 146 I've played ball for two years. I've worn a mask, I went to online classes, I lost my job, and I'm now fully vaccinated. I'm done. I refuse to support any action that would limit students ability to continue their educations or restrict it anymore.
- 147 I hate wearing masks because it's hard for me to breathe and I don't trust the vaccine.
- 148 Vaccine's are something some people should take, and people who don't like getting shots and everything makes sense, so many people are against the vaccine. I chose no masks because wearing a mask cuts off oxygen to the brain not like badly but it can effect how you learn and etc.
- 149 It should be a choice. If you want to get it fine, but don't make anyone have to have it to attend. Not really the land of the free anymore are we? This is ridiculous to even put up. What is next? We say we want to include everyone but if you don't get a vaccine you can't be included? Not to mention the vaccine doesn't even work, you can still get covid with it. I'll take my chances and I hope you allow students to do the same. If you enforce this mandate you will lose a solid amount of the school population. And I don't think your bank accounts want that. Let people live the life they choose and worry about yourself. It is unreal this will be in question in the upcoming meetings. My body, my choice.
- 150 Like the flu shot people have the right to do what they want with their bodies
- 151 Because I see protecting others as a paramount task of walking in the footsteps of Christ. We should all protect and care for each other until this pandemic is over and everyone is vaccinated. Much like we managed to overcome other terrible diseases such as polio and smallpox.
- 152 i chose no because everyone is likely to sick with a mask or without, along with the vaccine.

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- 153 The vaccine is FDA approved and free. And I would feel safer in an environment where everyone had vaccine immunity and the chances of catching a breakthrough cases were smaller. However, if we can't have a vaccine I would like the mask mandate to remain in effect. I rather that protection against the pandemic than nothing.
- 154 No, I believe if you WANT to get the vaccine you should and same with the masks.
- 155 Personal Opinion
- 156 Attendance will significantly go down. For students who want to choose for their own body, they may choose another school to go to
- 157 Yes for vaccine
- 158 The pandemic has not ended, even though many have felt that it has. Although Western has placed a mask mandate for everyone when on campus, I rarely see anyone wear one. The pandemic will not end if people continue to be thoughtless and careless about these precautions.
- 159 Individuals should be able to choose how to take care of their personal health choices.
- 160 You shouldn't tell people what they have to put into their body, even if it puts others at risk. Its wrong to not let someone come to their own medical decisions. It's not unreasonable to require non vaccinated individuals to wear a mask because if they don't want the needle they need to do something to prevent the virus from spreading.
- 161 I think that Covid is still a very serious issue that is not being addressed very well at the moment and a requirement would help the situation.
- 162 I believe that this matter should strictly be an opinion based situation. No one should be able to force another person to do something with their body in any situation, that is why there have been movements basset around my body my choice. If there is an individual who would like to receive the vaccine and wear a mask because it makes them feel more safe and comfortable going out into public all power to them, I will not say anything negative about their choice because it is theirs it is not right or wrong it's just what they want yo do and that is okay. On the other hand I do not want to receive a vaccine or wear a mask because of something that has I high survival rate, it is just something I am uncomfortable with and that is my choice, I am not right or wrong it's just what I think. Neither group should be harassed or forced to do things they would not like to do. I do not think it is just or fair to force a vaccine on people just so that can continue their education like I said it should be my body my choice and your body your choice.
- 163 I feel that the schools cannot force vaccines but feel that to prevent spread all should wear masks. It's no different than wearing a shirt.

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- 164 There are other preventative solutions besides the vaccine that people are not being educated on. People who have anti-bodies are proven to be less susceptible to covid-19 and have an immunity that helps prevent spreading. There are also medications that some doctors who are not supportive of the vaccine are offering and they have also been proven to limit and/or demolish the virus. I believe that these things should be further researched and talked about so that everyone is aware of their medical options. I fully support taking the steps we need to in order to protect our community and I am for the masks and social distancing, however I do not stand for the vaccination and the growing requirement of it. I believe it is against our rights, especially when there are other options and resources that are being shoved under the rug amidst the vaccine release.
- 165 I support vaccination and mask requirements because we need to avoid overwhelming our healthcare system and keep each other safe. People don't "know" what's in the vaccine? They also don't know what's in horse paste, but that doesn't stop them. A lot of people who *talk* about not wanting the jab or masks actually *want* these requirements, so they can save face.
- 166 I believe those are a freedom and should not be forced on anyone.
- 167 I have the vaccine myself but I think everyone is entitled to their own opinion and if they don't think they need to wear a mask or have a vaccine then they shouldn't have to.
- 168 I don't believe that requiring masks or vaccines is ethical, there are many reasons and concerns associated with them and I don't think someone should not be able to get an education because they don't want to or can't abide by those standards. If there are student or staff members that are not willing to attend in person courses with out those mandates should be given the option to study remote, rather than require remote for those who don't want to erect mandates.
- 169 I chose no for vaccine requirement, it is my body. I will not attend a school if I have to get the COVID vaccine. There isn't enough evidence out there to make me feel comfortable getting it. For the mask requirement, I just want to stay in person. I'll wear it if I have to. I won't be happy if I have to but I'll do it.
- 170 I don't think it's appropriate to mandate vaccine at the college level because they are basically adults and they will or they won't they have that right. Mask on the other hand isn't physically placing something in your body it's not that big of a deal just deal with it.
- 171 I do not agree with requiring these things to attend a school that we pay for. Students should be expected to hold themselves to a specific hygiene standard and use common sense to help keep themselves and other students healthy. It should be a personal choice that individuals make as to whether or not they get vaccinated or wear a mask. We are educated enough that we can acknowledge the risks of getting vaccinated/wearing a mask and not doing so, and we should be able to recognize that and use our own decision-making skills.

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- 172 i think that yes this is a problem, but clearly the vaccine isn't helping and neither are the masks. no matter what, everyone is going to get COVID at some point, or already had it. i know of many students who got the vaccine, still wear masks, but got covid again. the masks also cause problems in the classroom because you can't understand what the professors and other students are saying.
- 173 It's ridiculous. If I don't want the Covid vaccine it affects nobody but myself. "It prevents you from getting Covid" I disagree. Every human I know that has got Covid within the last month has the vaccine. Keep in mind they also wear masks. Everyone I know who hasn't still hasn't gotten Covid either. Obviously you can get it without the vac but if you're still getting it with the vac AND worse symptoms I personally think you cannot force me to get it
- 174 I chose no. I believe requiring masks or a vaccine is a violation of our rights. They should be optional. Everyone has different beliefs (religious & otherwise) & health status. It is also an extremely new vaccine with limited science behind it to know the long term effects on overall health & reproductive systems. It is proven to not prevent covid, boosters are already needed, and overall, requiring this is unconstitutional.
- 175 Because I personally would leave the school if vaccinations were required. I have a few personal concerns about the vaccine as it has not been tested as much as I would like it to. Eventually I may come to the decision that I would like to receive the COVID vaccine but I am not very trusting right now simply because we don't know the long term results.
- 176 It is unconstitutional for any institution to mandate anything. It is none of the universities business whether someone chooses or does not choose to get the vaccine or wear a mask. It is up to the individual to determine what they want to do when it comes to their own health and safety. Not to mention that if the University of Montana Western does mandate students to get the vaccine or wear a mask they WILL lose students. We as students will not give up our rights or beliefs if Western threatens to mandate us. The majority of the students will find a school that does not restrict us from our constitutional rights. Do not create a problem that does not need to be created.
- 177 Let each student decide for themselves what is right. It is not your job to worry about our medical decisions.
- 178 I chose no for both the vaccine requirement and mask requirement. Medical decisions are our personal right. UMWestern does not have the authority to take away our rights and tell students, and even faculty, what to do with their own bodies. Each and every one of us have a right to our medical decisions and medical HISTORY. A college should never be able to ask if you have a vaccine, ask you to get a vaccine, inquire into incentives to get a vaccine (your "Vaccination Sweepstakes") or especially require you to get a vaccine. This college is built by the students and it is for the students. Students have rights as American citizens that should never be infringed upon.
- 179 The vaccine is too new. We don't know any of the long-term effects of it. The masks are just annoying. They make trying to have conversations uncomfortable and hard to understand.

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- 180 Because it is a personal choice. Forcing someone to take a vaccine violates the constitution. You cannot force someone to get a vaccine. If someone wants to get a vaccine or wear a mask that is their personal choice
- 181 The matter is a public health issue, but it has been turned into a political stance. In order to curb the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and well-being of members of our community, nation, and world --especially those who are vulnerable or high-risk-- stricter measures need to be put into place.
- 182 I personally believe that if we have an outbreak on campus, the people who feel unsafe should wear a mask and the people who feel unsafe do not
- 183 I believe that all students should have the right to choose. You cannot force injections on people. It is not right to deny any student of the opportunity to get a college degree who chooses to stand up for their right to not wear a mask or not get vaccinated. I understand that you will probably say that students can choose to do an online program if they do not wish to get a vaccine or wear a mask. You are violating their right to experience college in-person and that may hinder their learning opportunities. I am in a completely online program and it has been extremely difficult as that is not how I learn best. I imagine it may be even more difficult for others depending on each individual. High-risk individuals can make the choice to do an online program, but I guarantee there are fewer students in that category than healthy individuals. Please do what is right and honor our rights as students and individuals.
- 184 A requirement like this would be taking away my free agency.
- 185 Requiring masks/vaccination is a violation of our freedom. There is so proof that either strategy works either. If a vaccination mandate were set in place at UMW I would leave the university.
- 186 its wrong
- 187 It should be up to the student and what they feel is right for themselves
- 188 It's ridiculous
- 189 Although I have gotten my COVID vaccine I believe that everyone has a choice in what they want to do with their bodies. If people feel more comfortable with a mask, they can wear a mask. If they want/don't want to get vaccinated, let them.
- 190 Covid19 is here to stay, I feel that people should have the choice. We need to start treating this virus as anything else and move on. As students we are tired of all the crap and requirements.
- 191 Better safe than sorry, I don't want to see people get sick and possibly die, I'd feel a lot safer and comfortable with everyone being vaccinated. Without it, it seems like people care more about themselves than the health of people.

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- 192 I am a firm believer in the right to choose. If a student wants to get vaccinated they should be able to do that. And vise versa. Choosing to wear a mask for the same reason.
- 193 A vaccine requirement is unconstitutional and considered as discrimination if those who don't get the vaccine can't attend Montana Universities. The mask requirement is also unconstitutional. Both the vaccine and wearing a mask have awful health effects and neither should be forced upon a person.
- 194 I do not think that it is appropriate to mandate a vaccine due to the fact that we live in a free country and should have the right to honor our own opinion. Forcing people to get a shot that goes against their values is unconstitutional. Same goes for a mask. I honor other people opinions and don't care whether you choose to get the vaccine or wear a mask or not. It is your own opinion and everyone should have the opportunity to do what they believe.
- 195 My body, my right to medical treatment. This vaccine has just been created. There is no way to say that this is a safe course of treatment, regardless of what has been passed down by the CDC or government rulings. I would discontinue my studies if this should go into effect.
- 196 It's my constitutional right to choose. Why would I get vaccinated for something that's vitamin D, and ivermectin can take of? The survival rate of covid is actually quite high, however the media says otherwise. Masks don't even work! The masks used for painting and pesticides are way more elaborate than the cloth one we wear for covid. Please tell me how the cloth mask will prevent this VIRUS, that is so small. And as for vaccine, there isn't enough research or time into it. It's still experimental and there are too many reactions and negative affects.
- 197 I don't believe vaccinations should be mandated. We still don't know the long term effects and despite the vaccination, COVID-19 rates continue to climb at an even higher rate than they were last year before the vaccine. I don't have an issue with a mask mandate
- 198 I just have personal beliefs against them
- 199 I am anti vaccination and I would not continue school here if a requirement was put in place.
- 200 I believe if your mask works and you feel more comfortable wearing a mask then you can. But I myself got Covid twice while masks were mandated. Therefore I do not feel that they are effective or should be mandated. I also really strongly do not agree with vaccines being mandated in order to attend school. I believe that is your choice as is the flu vaccine. I personally do not get vaccines because I tend to have very bad reactions to them.

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- 201 I do not believe it is constitutional to force students to wear a mask or take a vaccine that is new and does not have significant research. I will not partake in a university that forces me to do so. As a senior I would drop out and go to an online university that does not make medical decisions for me. For religious and medical reasons I am against this vaccine, until further research has been done. As a healthy individual, I have not had smell or taste for 11 months and I do not believe that it is the faculty's decision on how I handle my health. They should focus more on teaching and less on political issues.
- 202 It should be a choice not a requirement.
- 203 Breathing your own carbon dioxide isn't healthy and as an asthmatic, it is damaging my lungs.
- 204 It is a personal right based on self autonomy to make your choice whether you wish to take the vaccine or not. The vaccine only suppresses the symptoms of covid, therefore it does not directly affect the well-being of others. As for masks, I support the option to wear masks but the option to also not. We all sit distanced and everything is wiped down after class. During class we rarely talk anyhow so the spread of germs is minimal. Thank you.
- 205 I am vaccinated and I feel like all students should be vaccinated to be on the safe side instead of being not vaccinated.
- 206 I feel that it should be each student's choice on what they would rather do than force a rule upon all students.
- 207 I don't agree with the vaccine.
- 208 Because I should have a say in whether I want to wear a mask or get a vaccine if I want. I should not be required to do anything except what I think is best for me.
- 209 I think the vaccine is something that someone can choose to get or not, forcing someone to get a vaccine is like forcing someone to keep a baby. Your body your choice as to what goes in or out of it. Masks are an easier mandate to make that wouldn't have a terrible backlash and it's easier to implement.
- 210 Vaccines are more long term than mask mandates and would be more effective.
- 211 The vaccine has only been out for a little over a year. There are many complications with some people and they are unable to take the vaccine. Overall, it should be the student's choice over whether or not they want to receive the vaccine.
- 212 I think no because you should not have control over what people do with their own body. If they want to get the shot let them get it but if they do not want to get it then they do not have to.

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- 213 I chose no for the vaccine mandate because it is unacceptable to put a mandate on a non FDA- approved vaccine with risks we have yet to fully understand. HB 107 also declares this as unlawful under Montana law as it does not fit the exceptions as stated in subsection 2. The mask mandate is acceptable because we still need to protect our students and this way we can do so without potentially harming them
- 214 First off, I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak upon my morals, beliefs, and thoughts on this topic. I chose NO very strongly because, I do not think that it is okay for anyone to be forced into this extremely political medical procedure. Instead, the University of Montana Western should be supporting and teaching students/faculty how to stay healthy during this time in other ways. Advertising this can be achieved very easily through the several platforms that the school has access to. Instead of incentivising students to take a vaccination, why don't we incentivise them to be the best version of themselves and be healthy! Physical exercise, diet, and supplementation are huge factors in staying healthy right now. While there are a few healthy options in the dining hall, there should be many more! Taking vitamins and supplements such as Vitamin D, Vitamin C, Zinc, Apple Cider Vinegar, multi-vitamins, lifting weights, cardio, and making sure to eat a reasonable portion of fruits and vegetables are essential daily steps everyone should be taking for their health. This is not a life threatening sickness to nearly any college student unless of course they are obese or have previously existing medical conditions. This last month has been the best month of my college experience thus far. Without masking, I am able to converse with my peers, laugh with them, and see their smiles light up. Class has been much more enjoyable for me and I have actually had fun. I have been very kind, and rolled with the punches with how the pandemic has been handled thus far, but I can assure you that I am all done doing that now and it is time for my voice to be heard. I will NOT be taking the vaccine and I am here to tell you that if these things get mandated you will see my face and hear my voice again in the future. I can assure you I will fight until the bitter end for my morals, freedoms, and what I believe in and I hope my message is clear. I am currently the healthiest that I have ever been in my life and if the University of Montana Western decides to mandate vaccination, I will not be attending the school any longer. Thank you so much for giving the students a voice, I can not thank you enough for that. This was great to be able to share my piece and views on the matter. Thanks again.
- 215 I come from a democratic state and background and I believe it's the smart way to continue forward, especially with how many students travel and come in contact with others.
- 216 I cannot think of any logical reason why you would not get the vaccine. Unless someone had an obvious medical exemption for getting the vaccine. It would only protect the students of the school.
- 217 I don't think people should be forced to get vaccinated because most of the vaccinations aren't approved by the FDA and I think people have a right not to get this vaccination. We already had to wear masks so wearing a mask is fine.
- 218 I think it should be our option to get the vaccine or not but I also think that we should wear masks to protect ourselves and others.

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- 219 Because I have my own rights and masks only work up to 15 minutes while in a 6ft radius, so when we have 3 hour classes that are not even spaced out anymore, the mask then doesn't provide protection like everyone thinks. So after 15 minutes of class, the masks do nothing but restrict our breathing and social skills.
- 220 Everyone should be responsible for their own personal health. If the vaccine truly works like we were led to believe, then it shouldn't matter whether people around us are vaccinated and have masks or not. Personally, I believe getting the vaccine is the "right" thing to do, but I don't think it should be mandated.
- 221 Vaccine and masks should not be required. Should be the students choice.
- 223 I am already vaccinated and I see no issues with requiring a vaccine when other vaccines are already required for school enrollment at every level.
- 224 Masks aren't as big of a deal for most people as the vaccines are, so if having to wear a mask means I can go to school then I'll do it if I don't have to get vaccinated.
- 225 I believe these steps help keep use and the people around use safer. To do our small part to help slow this pandemic.
- 226 No because we are adults and it is our choice
- 227 I believe it is out own choice to decide if we should be vaccinated or to wear a mask. If you feel like that is what is best for you might not feel like the best for others.
- 228 I believe that students should be able to choose if they get vaccinated, however, I think that unvaccinated students should wear masks, and vaccinated students shouldn't be required to wear masks. If you're vaccinated you are trying to prevent the spread of Covid already, this might be an incentive for more people to get vaccinated.
- 229 I believe it should be a students choice whether they get the vaccine or not. Same goes with the mask requirements.
- 230 I chose no for the vaccine requirement because it is our body our choice.
- 231 By mandating it you are taking away people's rights I will stop attending if that is the case
- 232 I believe the vaccine is a personal choice especially because it is so new to medicine. I have no problem wearing a mask in the classrooms and campus buildings when cases increase. Mandating a vaccine to students who came for an education is not right in my eyes and should be a personal choice if they want it and when they feel comfortable getting the vaccine. I'm not for or against the vaccine. Personally I'm just waiting for more information and the long term effects before I put something into my body that's so new.
- 233 I chose no for the vaccine and mask requirements because what happened to "my body, my choice?" I feel like it should be optional instead of making us take the vaccine that has been statistically proven to not prevent covid.

From: [Mckenzie, Mary](#)
To: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
Subject: BOR Public Comment
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021 4:47:46 PM
Attachments: [BOR Public Comment.docx](#)

Hello,

Here is my public comment.

Best,
Madison McKenzie
Graduate Student
Department of Sociology
SS 322
ASUM Senator
Student Political Action Committee Chair
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
She/Her/Hers

Mr. Chair, Esteemed Regents,

My name is Madison McKenzie, I am a second-year graduate student at the University of Montana studying Sociology, I am also a Senator with ASUM and chair of the student political action committee.

Last night ASUM passed a “Resolution Expanding ASUM's Stance Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement Based on UM Student and Faculty/Staff Survey(s).”

Today I am excited to speak to you about the results of the surveys that were sent out to UM students, faculty and staff on behalf of ASUM to ask for their opinions on whether or not they would support a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for in-person attendance here at UM.

Both of these surveys received IRB approval from this institution and not only asked if students, faculty, and staff if they would support a requirement, but also asked them questions on their opinions if they did not support it with regard to whether or not they would leave UM if a requirement was implemented, in addition to other questions that asked for their COVID-19 vaccine status and a series of demographic questions for generalizability.

The idea to conduct this survey came out of conversations with the university administration and Board of Regents following ASUM passing the “Resolution Establishing ASUM’s Demands Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement” at the beginning of September.

The demands set forth within the resolution to implement a vaccine requirement were met with statements of fear that if implemented, Montana Universities would see a drastic drop in enrollment and faculty and staff employment.

While these concerns may be true for some public universities in the state, I felt an obligation to fulfill my promise as an ASUM senator and that is to advocate for the general welfare of all students at the University of Montana.

In doing so, I believe that advocating for the students, with regard to the health and safety risks associated with COVID-19, this duty not only meant asking for the students views on this topic, but also asking for and advocating for the views of the faculty and staff.

After all, advocating for students also means advocating for the very faculty and staff that are required for the existence of the University.

This resolution is not meant to impose demands, it is simply to inform and call on the university to consider taking some form of action.

That being said, let me dive right into the basic level results.

An estimated 26% of students responded with

Approximately 58% of UM students supporting a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for in-person attendance and 41% of UM students not supporting one; of the 41% of students who indicated they do not support it,

19% of them indicated that they would get the COVID-19 vaccine if they were required to and 80% indicated that they would not;

of the 80% of students who said they would not get the COVID-19 vaccine, 83% indicated that they would leave UM, and 16% indicated that they would not;

Meaning, if you break it down, about 25% of the student respondents said they would leave, and 75% said they support a COVID-19 vaccine requirement and/or would stay.

An estimated 11.5% of Faculty or staff responded with

82% of UM faculty/staff supporting a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for in-person attendance and 17% of UM faculty/staff not supporting one;

of the 17% of faculty/staff who indicated they do not support it, 24% of them indicated that they would get the COVID-19 vaccine if they were required to and 75% indicated that they would not;

of the 75% of faculty/staff who said they would not get the COVID-19 vaccine, 72% indicated that they would leave UM and 27% indicated that they would not leave UM;

Meaning that around 91% of faculty or staff respondents said they would support a requirement and/or stay, and around 8% would leave.

While the number of individuals who responded to both surveys that indicated they would not get the COVID-19 vaccine *and* would leave should be considered, the significance in the response rate for both of the surveys in addition to the majority of students who indicated support and the overwhelming number of faculty and staff support, these results should, I hope, help to inform and send a message to the regents and the UM administration that the majority of faculty, staff, and students at this university would support this action. While I recognize the administration's concerns over students potentially leaving, it should be considered that if the Montana university system requires the students, faculty, and staff to attend in-person, and in order to do so safely during a pandemic, the Montana university system is not only responsible for taking all possible measures to ensure that not only the students are safe, but that all faculty and staff are ensured a safe and healthy working environment;

That is not to say that the risk of students, faculty, or staff leaving is not a valid concern, I want to make it clear that I don't want them to leave, but I also would like you to consider the number of potential students and faculty who are not considering UM or Montana due to the health and safety risks that may make them more vulnerable,

To these concerns in a drop in enrollment, and with all due respect, I stand by a statement I made back in September before the rise in cases, you may be worried about a decline in numbers, I am worried about a decline in lives.

I am saddled to say that my previous concerns became a reality, and during the month of October 35 people were reported to have died of COVID-19 in Missoula County alone, and a reported 10 deaths (as of today) continue into this month. I commend the university of Montana for taking precautions during this time by expanding the mask requirements to indoor spaces on campus.

But I believe that the university (as well as other leaders in Missoula and Montana) understood and could see the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continuing to rise and break records, but chose to continue, business as usual, but wear a mask indoors on campus, promote packing the Grizzly Washington stadium to capacity, mask optional, for football games, all while the hospitals faced capacity, and the national guard was brought in to assist with overflow.

Our society seems to have forgotten the not too long ago regarded as prestigious and brave health care heroes that serve our university and community. I call on all of you today to weigh the significance of this data and consider implementing a COVID-19 vaccination requirement with exemptions and alternatives outlined in the resolution, for all students, faculty, and staff at UM to be implemented at the start of the Spring semester.

I also call on UM and the regents to consider the significance of the overwhelming support of the COVID-19 vaccine requirement on behalf of the faculty and staff at UM, and allow further autonomy for the faculty in making decisions to plan for remote learning if they feel it is necessary for the general health and safety of themselves and/or students and staff against COVID-19; for instance, allowing for them to create and conduct online classes if they are at an increased health risk, or for the purpose of transitioning online if or when the health and safety risks associated with the pandemic begin or continue to rise.

I am happy to answer any questions or present the results of these surveys in full at a later date upon request.

Thank you, Mr. chair and esteemed regents, for your time, and your service to higher education in the state of Montana.

Of the student respondents, 73.42% indicated that they were fully vaccinated against COVID-19, 15.52% indicated that they were not, and 11.06% preferred not to say if they were fully vaccinated;

of the 73.42% of students who indicated that they were fully vaccinated, 25.66% indicated that they received the Moderna vaccine, 67.34% indicated that they received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, 5.63% indicated that they received the Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) vaccine, and 1.37% preferred not to say;

Of the faculty/staff respondents, 91.72% indicated that they were fully vaccinated against COVID-19, 2.66% indicated that they were not, and 5.62% preferred not to say if they were fully vaccinated;

of the 91.72% of faculty/staff who indicated that they were fully vaccinated, 30.10% indicated that they received the Moderna vaccine, 64.40% indicated that they received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, 4.213% indicated that they received the Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) vaccine, and 1.29% preferred not to say;

From: [O'Shay Birdinground](#)
To: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
Subject: O'Shay Birdinground Public Comment
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 8:41:51 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT2.docx](#)

Good afternoon and thank you Mr. Chair, and esteemed Regents! (Introduce self in crowd then translate)(spell name) I am here to ask the Regents to reconsider requirements for the American Indian tuition waiver. In 1990, the Regents created the waiver based on language under Article X, Section II of the Montana Constitution, Indian Education for All. Now one of these requirements, the blood quantum standard, needs to be changed for the betterment of Indigenous students for generations to come. In the past couple of years, two Montana tribes have had to lower their quantum to keep up enrollment. Lowering this blood quantum standard is one consideration to address this issue. Alternatively, the Regents should consider proof of descentance rather than blood quantum because this standard is clearly unethical in 21st century culture. A second consideration I offer is the removal of the need-based financial metric. This waiver is the only one within the MUS system to have a financial need basis. The financial limitations take away from second and even third-generation Indigenous college students who are seeking this waiver. As a student who did not receive this waiver, I am now accumulating debt early in my college career because of this standard for determination, and, many other Indigenous students have dropped out of institutions due to the financial hardship from not receiving this waiver. If this waiver was really set for Indigenous students' success in higher education, then I ask you to remove or amend these requirements. Another issue I would like to propose is the uniformity of implementing the waiver language across the state. Our institutions have vague interpretations of the current policy and are therefore interpreting the tuition requirements in an inconsistent manner across the MUS system. Earlier today, Dr. McLean spoke on behalf of AIMA to the retention increases for Native American students, and committed to working relentlessly until retention is at 100%. I believe

now, and through my own experiences, I am offering you another consideration to increase retention for Indigenous students. The Regents have an opportunity to re-work these problems so their solutions may benefit Indigenous students, and I encourage you to take these concerns seriously and take actionable steps to remedy them. There are Native American support groups who are currently working on this topic and I strongly encourage you to reach out to AIMA, and the MUS Native Serving Institution Partnership Group. Thank you for your continuous commitment to Indigenous students in this state.