



# Montana University System

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## Minutes Montana Board of Regents January 3, 2023

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

Meeting convened at 10:00 am

Regents Present: Brianne Rogers, Chair, Todd Buchanan, Joyce Dombrowski, Casey Lozar, Loren Bough, Jeff Southworth, and Norris Blossom. Ex officio members include Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, Office of Public Instruction Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, and Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier.

Comments by Chair Rogers | *00:00:55*

Chair Rogers welcomed her fellow Regents and thanked them for their time and commitment to the Board. She acknowledged the Board's attendance at the Montana Chamber of Commerce's Business Days at the Capitol event and stated her the opportunity to connect with legislators. Chair Rogers congratulated the recent fall graduates, which included over 1,000 students from each flagship institution and hundreds more from across the state. Finally, she provided an overview of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes | *00:02:08*

- November 17-18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner's Report | *00:02:25*

Commissioner Christian also congratulated the fall semester graduates and expressed appreciation for the faculty and staff who supported their journey. He acknowledged that it was the second day of the legislative session, and with over 4,000 bill drafts and almost 300 introduced, it would be a busy and active session. Commissioner Christian explained that HB13, the state employee pay plan bill, would be discussed that afternoon, and subcommittee hearings would begin on January 18th. He expressed gratitude to the Governor for the items in the proposed budget. He spoke to a letter received by the Board of Regents from Governor Gianforte regarding banning TikTok from the MUS network. OCHE leadership and campus CIOs had been working together and would issue a directive on the Regents' behalf soon. Discussion followed.

Deputy Commissioner Helen Thigpen presented a legislative update, beginning with a mention of the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast and expressing appreciation for those valuable networking opportunities. She explained that OCHE leads legislative efforts on behalf of the MUS and what that means for this session. Several hundred bills are already introduced, and pertinent bills will be monitored, ranked, and assigned to an OCHE staff member to follow. HB2,



the budget bill, follows a different process, starting with subcommittees. She further explained that the discussion of HB5, the long-range building plan bill, would begin towards the end of January. On Wednesday, January 4th, the senate and house education committees will meet to address the constitutional authorities meeting held in June. She expressed a few anticipated challenges for the session, including bills referencing OCHE/MUS and trying to amend the constitution. She finished by recognizing that OCHE would remain focused on the MUS's top priorities. Discussion followed.

- Introductions | 00:10:50

Deputy Commissioner Thigpen introduced, Leanne Kurtz who will provide assistance with the legislative and communication work.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | 00:23:23

Superintendent Arntzen spoke about the great work the team has done with two years left in her term and encouraged the Regents to review her report. She talked about teacher residency programs, including one that the Governor's office is willing to put GEAR dollars towards, and challenges with spending funding due to procurement rules. She requested the Regents' support to promote and increase teacher residency programs and expressed appreciation for the partnership going into this year's session.

**CONSENT** | 00:30:34

**Staff Item:**

- a. Staff Item, MSU Bozeman ITEM 204-2000-R0123

**Emeriti Faculty Item:**

- b. Hughes; MSU Bozeman ITEM 204-2001-R0123

**Facility Items:**

- c. Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement to NorthWestern Energy; MSU Bozeman ITEM 204-2002-R0123 | Attachment #1
- d. Request for Authorization to Execute a Lease Renewal at 2327 University Way, Bozeman; MSU Bozeman ITEM 204-2003-R0123
- e. Request for Authorization to Enter into an Off Campus Lease for Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; MSU Bozeman ITEM 204-2004-R0123

Regent Blossom asked for clarification about facility item e. and why the investment for this department is related to the facility rather than the faculty. Director of Accounting and Budget Shauna Lyons explained that space is needed to allow room for specific technical equipment and projects. This space is temporary to meet an immediate need.



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

**ACTION | 00:33:43**

- a. Request for Authorization to Enter into a Cash Farm Lease for 317 Acres with Bozeman Health; Montana Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 204-2301-R0123 | Attachment #1

Chair Rogers said this item would move to the March agenda.

- b. Request for Authority to Increase Spending to Remodel Research Storage Building at the Flathead Lake Biological Station; UM Missoula ITEM 204-1001-R0123 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained this item originally came to the Board in September 2020. The project is completely funded with a federal grant, so this request is to approve an increase in spending authority.

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 204-1001-R0123, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Request for Authorization to Expand McGill Hall; UM Missoula ITEM 204-1003-R0123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained that this request for an addition to an existing academic building is completely funded by federal grants. If this request for authority is approved, it would still go through the legislative process for their approval.

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 204-1001-R0123, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Deferred Compensation – University of Montana President; OCHE/MUS ITEM 204-100-R0123

Commissioner Christian explained that converting the deferred compensation arrangement from defined-benefit to defined-contribution is consistent with past BOR action in similar situations.

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 204-100-R0123, was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (7-0).

**Appeals | 00:41:10**

Chair Rogers explained the process related to appeals.

- Appeal #1
- Appeal #2



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- Appeal #3

Chair Rogers called for a motion to hear any of the appeals. No motion was made; therefore, the Commissioner’s decision was upheld.

Public Comment | 00:42:42

None.

Executive Session

- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #1 – UM
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #2 – UM
  
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #1 - MSU
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #2 - MSU
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #3 - MSU

The Board convened an executive session at 10:45 am. Chair Rogers determined the matters of the discussion related to matters of individual privacy and the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:20 am.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

03/16/2023

Date

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

03/16/2023

Date

Brianne Rogers  
Chair, Board of Regents