



**Minutes  
Montana Board of Regents  
March 15-16, 2023**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

Meeting convened at 8:34 am

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

Comments by Chair Rogers | *00:01:10*

Chair Rogers welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended gratitude to the students, faculty, staff, community members, and supporters of higher education in Montana. She acknowledged the Regents' productive and insightful breakfast with the Montana University System Faculty Representatives that morning. She introduced Paul Nicholson, a Computer Aided Manufacturing Instructor at Helena College, and Dr. Brad Hall, President of Blackfeet Community College. She then provided an overview of the agenda. She extended appreciation to Dean Bauman and the Helena College staff for hosting the meeting.

Welcome by Dean Bauman | *00:04:55*

Dean Bauman began by emphasizing the importance of K12 partnerships. She welcomed the 5th-grade class from Bryant Elementary School to the meeting. She spoke to the youth Computer Science and Cyber Security Camp made possible by a partnership with Cyber Montana. She highlighted another partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities which introduces high school students to the art of filmmaking and shared that one of the projects had won an Emmy. She explained the substantial numbers for dual enrollment and emphasized that even more growth was seen in students coming to Helena College to take these courses.

Dean Bauman highlighted the EMT training program made possible by Montana's Future at Work Grant funded by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. The fire and emergency services, art & media arts, and healthcare programs were highlighted as thriving programs within Helena College. She announced that the Second Chance Pell program would graduate its first class of Applied Science in Automotive degrees with a 90% completion rate at the upcoming commencement ceremony. Dean Bauman provided updates for the construction of the new art building and cosmetology salon. She concluded by thanking several community partners for supporting Helena College and her staff in making this meeting possible.

Approval of Minutes | *00:28:18*



- January 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner's and System Report | 00:28:37

- Legislative Update and Shared Policy Goals

Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, provided an overview of the executive budget. She announced that HB 2 had recently passed the House Appropriations Committee and highlighted that the MUS 2025 biennium appropriation was 6.3% higher than the 2023 biennium. In addition to the core MUS funding, the House Appropriations Committee supported funding for the five research agencies: Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, Forest, and Conservation Experiment Station, Bureau of Mines and Geology, and Fire Training Services. Deputy Commissioner Thigpen announced that the House Appropriations Committee was currently taking up the Long-Range Building program within HB 5 for major repairs and capital developments. The Appropriations Section F Subcommittee recommended over \$200M in projects across the MUS system. Another bill the MUS was tracking was HB 10 that included funding for a cybersecurity project at the University of Montana.

Deputy Commissioner Thigpen highlighted HB 13, the state pay plan, passed the House with wide margins. She acknowledged the hundreds of policy bills OCHE and campuses were tracking and thanked everyone for their work. She stated that Regent Southworth and Regent Blossom were scheduled for their senate confirmation hearings that afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner Thigpen provided an overview of the draft shared policy goals which are created each session between the Appropriations Subcommittee Section E and the MUS. Several continuations from the 2021 session are a focus on tribal relations with language preservation and improving transferability, as well as proficiency-based education. New goals included financial literacy/college affordability, career and technical education offerings, and free speech. Discussion followed.

- Introductions | 00:47:54

President Bodnar introduced Dr. Karla Bird as UM's new Tribal Outreach Specialist and Dr. Shara Tscheulin as Vice Provost for Educational Initiatives and Innovation. Provost Gammon introduced Sarah North Wolfe as Interim Dean of Student Affairs. Chair Rogers recognized Joe Thiel as Interim Deputy Commissioner of Academic, Research, and Student Affairs at OCHE.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | 00:55:19

Superintendent Arntzen acknowledged the regent confirmation hearings and shared her support. She recognized President Ron Slinger as the newest member of the Board of



Public Education. She noted at their most recent board meeting they voted on the accreditation standards. She spoke about her recent travels, along with several legislators, that included nine stops, four of which were located on MUS campuses. She addressed mental health and emphasized a needed partnership to ensure adequate resources are available for students and staff at both the K12 and post-secondary levels. Superintendent Arntzen recognized a posters series known as Proud Montana that highlights teachers and school leaders of our tribal nations. She announced the upcoming celebration of women in government and spoke to a bill recently signed by Governor Gianforte for \$2M, 90% of which will go directly to teacher salaries.

Two-Year Education and Community College Committee | 01:06:01

### INFORMATION

a. Sprint Degree Update | 01:08:48

Angela DeWolf King, Operations and Special Projects Manager, provided an update on the Sprint Degree Program. She highlighted several goals of sprint degrees: increased access for Montana students, intentional workforce development, flexible program offerings, and innovation and efficiency. She explained the four main pillars of sprint degrees which included workforce development, industry partnership, the value of a degree, and time to completion. The goals for student and industry outcomes of the programs were discussed.

Ms. King described the pilot programs: A.A.S Paramedic Degree, B.S. Human Services Degree, and A.A.S. Surgical Technology Degree. She spoke to the current marketing campaign, including the messaging, landing page on the portal, and campus and external outreach efforts. She explained that program success would be measured by student enrollment, completion, and career placement. Success with industry partners would be measured by the number of recent graduates fulfilling workforce needs and the relationships between the campus programs and industry partners. Discussion followed.

b. Perceptions of Higher Education | 01:41:05

Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs and Student Engagement, presented the Lumina Value survey. This survey was the largest ever completed in Montana on Montana's view of higher education. The study aimed to gain information to guide policy and strategy to help get more Montanans to a degree.

Joe Thiel, Interim Deputy Commissioner of Academic, Research and Student Affairs, shared a breakdown of Montana's workforce and salaries for individuals with a college degree compared to those without. On average, those with a degree or certificate earn \$13K more per year.

Director Miller described the sample and findings of the study. The survey was distributed to 10,000 households throughout Montana and received over a 10% response rate. The responses were representative of a broad demographic of people in



Montana. Director Miller highlighted that overall, Montanans value Higher Education, and more specifically, the majority view it as a benefit to their communities and the state. Montanans also believe that the MUS offers high-quality education.

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel expressed that the results showed Montanans are concerned about college affordability, and individuals under 35 felt resources to help pay for college were limited. The MUS has kept tuition rates historically low, but the full cost of attendance should be considered.

Director Miller described several drivers of return on investment in higher education. She spoke to the emphasis that completion matters, and affordability is stratified. Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel shared the final driver, which is the degree choice. He noted the differences in income based on different fields and the complex conversations around this topic. Discussion followed.

c. MT 10 Student Stories | 02:07:17

Director Miller shared a brief update on Montana 10 and announced that today's presentation would focus on a sense of belonging and development for Montana 10 students.

Virginia Reeves, Writing & Communications Instructor at Helena College, described the Necessary Narratives webpage. The webpage incorporates audio recordings of Montana 10 students' experiences. The first audio recording was a collage of the incoming 2022 Montana 10 cohort. She explained that the Necessary Narratives program fosters social belonging, celebrates student diversity, and raises awareness about adversity. The next audio recording that was played was from a Montana 10 student who recently graduated in Spring 2022 and who is now pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Education at the University of Montana. Discussion followed.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee | 02:26:27

**ACTION**

- a. Honorary Doctorate; UM ITEM 205-1014-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

President Bodnar spoke to the request to award Mandy Smoker Broaddus an honorary doctorate for her achievements as a renowned poet, respected teacher, former Montana co-poet laureate, and public education and Indian Education leader.

- b. Honorary Doctorate; UM ITEM 205-1015-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

President Bodnar spoke to the request to award John Shaffner an honorary doctorate for his work as an influential television and theatre production designer. He was awarded six Emmy Awards, four Art Directors Guild awards, and numerous nominations, honored as a UM Distinguished Alumnus in 1992, and received the UM Odyssey Award in 2022.



c. Honorary Doctorate; MSU ITEM 205-2007-R0323 | Attachment #1

President Cruzado spoke to the request to award Carol Lalani an honorary doctorate for her career and philanthropic achievements. She highlighted Carol's career in international banking and her focus on humanitarian cases. Carol and her husband, Sal Lalani, have demonstrated generosity through many arts organizations throughout the Bozeman and Livingston areas.

d. Honorary Doctorate; MSU ITEM 205-2008-R0323 | Attachment #1

President Cruzado spoke to the request to award Robin Jones an honorary doctorate for her historic philanthropic investment in Montana State University's College of Nursing.

e. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary and OCHE  
Analysis | Supporting Documentation | University of Montana Academic  
Renewal

Dean Erdmann, GFC, presented the request to plan proposals for a Certificate Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Assistant (C.S.A) and an Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technician (A.A.S.). Discussion followed.

President Bodnar announced that due to a change in personal circumstances, Provost Madavi would be stepping away from her provost role at the University of Montana and will now work in a position to foster more collaboration across different universities and states. He expressed gratitude for Provost Madavi's work and appreciation for Dean Adrea Lawrence, who will be stepping in to serve within the provost role.

Provost Madavi, UM, presented the request to plan proposal for a joint Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H) and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.S.). Discussion followed.

Provost Madavi presented the University of Montana academic renewal request to plan proposal. She described the reason for the renewal as promoting interdisciplinary teaching, learning, scholarship, and service. Also, to better prepare students for the workforce, clearer curricular pathways, strengthen the ability to recruit and retain excellent faculty, create fundraising opportunities, and embrace their mission of inclusive prosperity. Provost Madavi spoke to the goals and values of the academic renewal: incorporate requests to plans, percentage of effort and curricular innovation, faculty collaboration, and interdisciplinarity. She proceeded with sharing the implementation timeline of the academic renewal process and key dates ahead.

Provost Madavi presented the request to plan proposals to create a School of Emerging and Applied Technologies (SEAT), and to revise the scope and structure of the Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. Discussion followed.



Provost Gammon presented the request to plan proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management (B.S.).

**INFORMATION | 03:28:04**

Policy Items:

a. Proposed Revisions to Board Policies | 03:28:23

- 806.1 – Supervising Teachers; Payment

Angela McLean, Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, spoke to the policy revision that would institutionalize a process that already takes place across our institutions and state to pay our supervising teachers when a student teacher is placed.

Academic Review Items

a. Academic Memo | 03:29:09

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel spoke to the academic review memo that includes academic proposals and requests for plans that are now reaching the final stage of approval that, through delegated authority by the Board, have been vetted by OCHE and CAOs.

Strategic Priority Items

b. Research Update | 03:30:03

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel acknowledged the excitement around a recent event hosted by Senator Tester for the federally funding Regional Innovation & Technology Hub. This program comes for the CHIPS and Science Act passed last year.

Scott Whittenburg, UM's Vice President of Research and Creative Scholarship presented the Precision Forestry and Rangeland Management proposal. This proposal is a National Science Foundation Engines Type 1 proposal and is for \$1M over 18 months. The proposal is to maximize the economic benefit of federal, tribal and private forests and rangelands while minimizing ecological impacts such as fire, drought and flood.

Kelsey Jencso, W.A. Franke Endowed Chair in Watershed Hydrology, presented several key projects: Montana Mesonet, Upper Missouri River Basins, Climate Extension, and AI approaches. These programs were described as providing vital data to through dashboards and additional tools for weather predictions and monitoring. Discussion followed.

c. AIMA Update | 03:47:02

Director McLean began by providing an update from a recent AMIA council meeting. She presented an American Indian student success update and highlighted that enrollment has grown by nearly 16% since 2016. She spoke to Tribal College Partnerships and recognized Educator Prep 2 +2 models and the Grow Your Own Educator Program. Director McLean acknowledged the UM Language Rejuvenation and



Maintenance Certificate, Class 7 licensee language conferences, and more than 60% of MUS faculty and staff have taken the Indian for All for One MUS course.

Open Educational Resource | 03:55:30

Director Miller presented open educational resources (OER) as a focus for supporting college affordability in the MUS. She reported that in a survey, 40% of students said that textbooks are their most significant financial challenge, and that research shows high textbook costs hinder student success. OER are free and openly licensed textbooks written by faculty members that are available digitally. She spoke to the MSU TRAILS OER initiative and highlighted nearly \$1M in student savings in 3 years. Director Miller acknowledged awareness and access as obstacles to OER's growth. She described several recommendations to grow the infrastructure to support OER: Perkins funding, Department of Education funding, and course tagging. She concluded with several recommendations for moving OER forward: more robust data, developing the OER network, innovations, faculty support, and student advocacy. Discussion followed.

**Public Comment | 04:15:18**

Alexandra Lin, Montana State Student, spoke of safety concerns of minority groups on campus.

Quentin Lucas, Montana State Student, spoke of safety concerns of minority groups on campus.

Marie Steiger, former Montana State Student, spoke of safety concerns of minority groups on campus.

Rex Wu, Montana State Student, spoke of safety concerns of minority groups on campus.

Melissa Glueckert, University of Montana Student, spoke in favor mental health services on campus.

Meeting Recessed 2:43 pm

**Thursday, March 16, 2023**

Board Reconvened at 8:50 am

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 04:32:35

**CONSENT**

**Emeriti Faculty:**

- f. Fiore; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1008-R0323
- g. M. Mayer; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1009-R0323
- h. Greene; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1010-R0323



- i. Costa; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1011-R0323
- j. Hajduk; UM Western ITEM 205-1601-R0323
- k. Jones; UM Western ITEM 205-1602-R0323
- l. Xanthopoulos; UM Western ITEM 205-1603-R0323
- m. D. Mayer; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2001-R0323
- n. Buerhaus; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2002-R0323
- o. Edgerton; MSU Billings ITEM 205-2701-R0323
- p. D. Schaffer; MSU Billings ITEM 205-2702-R0323
- q. Holt; MSU Billings ITEM 205-2703-R0323
- r. R. Schaffer; MSU Billings ITEM 205-2704-R0323
- s. Reifschneider; MSU Northern ITEM 205-2801-R0323

**Facility Items:**

- t. Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement to Northwestern Energy; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1012-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- u. Request for Authorization to Execute a Utility Easement with Northwestern Energy; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2003-R0323 | Attachment #1
- v. Request for Authorization to Replace Exterior Stairs at the Julia Martin Student Apartments; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2004-R0323 | Attachment #1
- w. Request for Authorization to Renovate Areas of Renne Library to Create Space for Faculty and Student Scholarly Collaboration; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2005-R0323 | Attachment #1
- x. Request for Authorization to Construct Foundation and Infrastructure for Stadium Videoboard, Audio, and Timing Systems; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2006-R0323 | Attachment #1

**Other:**

- y. Request for Approval to Amend Board of Regents Policy 201.7, By-Laws; OCHE/MUS ITEM 205-101-R0323 | Attachment #1

**ACTION | 04:33:58**

- a. Request for Authorization to Increase Spending Authority for Athletics Indoor Practice Facility; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1013-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4

Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning, stated this item came to the board in March of 2022 and was approved for spending authority only with private funds. Due to an increase in labor and materials as well as results from a soil sample, this request is to increase spending authority.

- b. Request for Authorization to Accept Donated Land from the University of Montana Foundation for Construction of a New Sports and Activities Complex; UM Western ITEM 205-1604-R0623 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2





Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained this request is for authorization to accept donated land from the UM Western Foundation to the campus. He thanked the donor for their generosity and then shared additional property details. The land is 14 acres and located behind the existing sports complex. The complex will include a football field, parking lot, locker rooms, and training spaces.

Tricia Fiscus, UM Western Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, emphasized the exciting opportunity this land and complex would provide to get more people to campus and increase student engagement. Discussion followed.

- c. Request for Authorization to Lease Land to the UMW Foundation (UMWF) for the Construction of the Sports and Athletic Complex, and to Enter into an MOU with UMWF for this Project; UM Western ITEM 205-1605-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3

Deputy Commissioner Trevor stated this request is to lease the donated land back to the UM Western Foundation. With this being a community-driven project, this request would provide the flexibility for more in-kind donations to help support this complex. This request would also give the campus permission to enter into an MOU with the UM Western Foundation.

Vice Chancellor Fiscus stated the initial phase of the project would cost \$4M. The final phase of the project is anticipated to be \$5.5M which would complete all the final components of the project. She announced they already have \$3.6M in donations without taking into account any in-kind donations. Discussion followed.

- d. Request for Authorization to Increase Project Authority for the Planning, Design, and Construction of Cosmetology Classroom/Salon Area; Helena College ITEM 205-1904-R0323 | Attachment #1

Shauna Lyons, Director of Accounting and Budget, presented the item previously approved for \$1M in November 2021. This item requests additional authorization due to several issues with wastewater, drainage, ventilation, and engineering costs. This request is to add \$982,000 to the project, fully funded by student fees and bond refinance savings. Discussion followed.

### **INFORMATION | 04:51:29**

- a. Budget Planning & Preparation | 04:51:31

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the budget building blocks: state appropriations, tuition and fees, and financial aid. He explained to get to the required tuition revenue, take the institutional requirement minus the state appropriations.

Deputy Commissioner Trevor provided an overview of HB 2 and highlighted several one-time-only (OTO) projects: \$3M for the seamless system, \$2M for sprint degrees,



and \$1.4M for the one-two-free program. HB 13 is the state pay plan, which, if approved, would be a \$32M increase in state appropriations over the biennium. HB 5, the Long-Range Building Program (LRBP), had \$206M in funded programs at the time.

Deputy Commissioner Trevor described the components that make up the approval of fees: mandatory fees, student-driven fees, course fees, program tuition, consolidation and conversion of course fees, and online fee conversion to mandatory technology fee.

Deputy Commissioner Trevor provided the goal and charge of the BOR Infrastructure Subcommittee. The subcommittee will complete an onsite review of priorities, intent to plan priority list, planning and design approvals, detailed planning cycle for LRBP, review of major repairs, and improved project descriptions, benchmarks, and data points. He concluded by outlining the LRBP 2-year planning process. Discussion followed.

b. BOR Policy Revisions | 05:15:38

- 712.1 – Post-Retirement Employment

Kevin McRae, Deputy Commissioner of Human Resources, provided proposed updates to the policy that would bring it up to date with state and federal policies related to retirement systems.

- 1908 – REPEAL

Deputy Commissioner Trevor stated that this request is to repeal an out-date policy.

**Public Comment** | 05:18:22; 05:28:49

Henry Kriegel, Representative of Americans with Prosperity, spoke to concerns of free speech on campus.

Kole Burdick, Montana State Student, spoke of safety concerns of minority groups on campus.

Tierney Hula, Montana State Student, spoke of safety concerns of minority groups on campus.

Liam McCollum, University of Montana Student, spoke to concerns of student's rights on campus.

Committee Reports & Action | 05:24:35

- Two-Year and Community College Committee
- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION**

- a. Honorary Doctorate; UM ITEM 205-1014-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2



A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 205-1014-R0323 was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (6-0).

b. Honorary Doctorate; UM ITEM 205-1015-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 205-1015-R0323 was made by Regent Blossom; motion passed (6-0).

c. Honorary Doctorate; MSU ITEM 205-2007-R0323 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 205-2007-R0323 was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (6-0).

d. Honorary Doctorate; MSU ITEM 205-2008-R0323 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 205-2008-R0323 was made by Regent Blossom; motion passed (6-0).

e. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary and OCHE  
Analysis | Supporting Documentation | University of Montana Academic  
Renewal

A motion for approval of action item e., Request to Plan Proposals was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (6-0).

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

### CONSENT

#### Emeriti Faculty:

- Fiore; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1008-R0323
- M. Mayer; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1009-R0323
- Greene; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1010-R0323
- Costa; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1011-R0323
- Hajduk; UM Western ITEM 205-1601-R0323
- Jones; UM Western ITEM 205-1602-R0323
- Xanthopoulos; UM Western ITEM 205-1603-R0323
- D. Mayer; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2001-R0323
- Buerhaus; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2002-R0323
- Edgerton; MSU Billings ITEM 205-2701-R0323
- D. Schaffer; MSU Billings ITEM 205-2702-R0323
- Holt; MSU Billings ITEM 205-2703-R0323
- R. Schaffer; MSU Billings ITEM 205-2704-R0323
- Reifschneider; MSU Northern ITEM 205-2801-R0323

#### Facility Items:

- Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement to Northwestern Energy; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1012-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- Request for Authorization to Execute a Utility Easement with Northwestern Energy; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2003-R0323 | Attachment #1



- q. Request for Authorization to Replace Exterior Stairs at the Julia Martin Student Apartments; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2004-R0323 | Attachment #1
- r. Request for Authorization to Renovate Areas of Renne Library to Create Space for Faculty and Student Scholarly Collaboration; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2005-R0323 | Attachment #1
- s. Request for Authorization to Construct Foundation and Infrastructure for Stadium Videoboard, Audio, and Timing Systems; MSU Bozeman ITEM 205-2006-R0323 | Attachment #1

**Other:**

- t. Request for Approval to Amend Board of Regents Policy 201.7, By-Laws; OCHE/MUS ITEM 205-101-R0323 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of consent items a.- t. was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (6-0).

**ACTION**

- a. Request for Authorization to Increase Spending Authority for Athletics Indoor Practice Facility; UM Missoula ITEM 205-1013-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 205-1013-R0323 was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (6-0).

- b. Request for Authorization to Accept Donated Land from the University of Montana Foundation for Construction of a New Sports and Activities Complex; UM Western ITEM 205-1604-R0623 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 205-1604-R0323 was made by Regent Blossom; motion passed (6-0).

- c. Request for Authorization to Lease Land to the UMW Foundation (UMWF) for the Construction of the Sports and Athletic Complex, and to Enter into an MOU with UMWF for this Project; UM Western ITEM 205-1605-R0323 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 205-1605-R0323 was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (6-0).

- d. Request for Authorization to Increase Project Authority for the Planning, Design, and Construction of Cosmetology Classroom/Salon Area; Helena College ITEM 205-1904-R0323 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 205-1904-R0323 was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (6-0).



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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Meeting Adjourned 10:25 am.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

05/17/2023

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in cursive.

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

05/17/2023

Date

Handwritten signature of Brianne Rogers in cursive.

Brianne Rogers  
Chair, Board of Regents

# **APPENDIX A**

**From:** [Christopher Giamarino](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Address hate, racism, xenophobia, homophobia/transphobia NOW  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 11:18:12 PM

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\*\*External Sender\*\*

I urge the Montana University System Board of Regents to address the harmful impacts of HB512 and acknowledge the violent threats made at MSU! Do the right thing or else.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [David Lillo](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 3:01:56 PM

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**\*\*External Sender\*\***

I am writing to express my concern regarding the safety and well-being of minority students at MSU and other Montana institutions. Recently, there have been several incidents of hate speech and threats directed towards students, which have created an environment of fear and insecurity for them.

As an educational institution, there is a vital responsibility to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. It is unacceptable that some of our students are being subjected to hate speech and threats. Affecting their academic and personal lives.

I urge you to take immediate action to address this issue and ensure that our campuses are a safe space for all students. This can be achieved by implementing policies and protocols to prevent hate speech and threats, educating the campus community about the importance of inclusivity and diversity, and providing resources and support to affected students.

I request that you take these concerns seriously and take prompt action to address them.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A concerned Montana Resident



Ethan Hasenoehrl  
3.15.22

### Board of Regents- Statement

Good afternoon, my name is Ethan Hasenoehrl and I am a student from UC Berkeley school of Civil Engineering. I am studying biochemistry with an interest in virology and immunology at MSU. I chose Montana State University as an institution to continue my studies, because of its commitment to student involvement and the ability to communicate with staff directly.

An institution, whether it be commercial, social, or academic is created in order to serve a purpose. Social organizations can be created to serve a singular purpose, or to promote a way of thinking. Companies are set out to create useful products that can be sold to ultimately make a profit. Academic institutions are made to cultivate a thirst for knowledge in a safe and encouraging environment.

Institutions are only useful when they serve their purpose. Thus, it is reasonable to view institutions in perspective to then validate their effectiveness. Recent threats to minority groups at Montana State have been received, reported to university staff, and then not addressed.

On February 16, 2023 the following email was received by Queer Student Association (QSA) staff:

Sinners of the [QSA] you must repent and turn to god, not the god that supports isis terrorists and sharia law but the white god of Christianity. If you do not call off your grooming party of young children tonight, we shall send someone to the Rialto and send everyone present to an early death in hell.

Then on February 23, 2023:

“Sinners, you may have been able to coerce some of us into silence but a majority of Montanan's along with our founder Charlie Kirk... will always be against your satanic ways. True Montanan's will not stop until we expel all the groomers and colored people from our campus and great state!”

Accusing members of the QSA of grooming young children, demanding that QSA event needs to be cancelled otherwise everyone present will be sent to an early death in hell, and expelling all members from campus and Montana. These all are hate speech, and the latter two are threatening acts of violence.

After these statements were received by QSA staff, they were immediately reported to campus authorities. Then, no action was taken by MSU staff. Death threats to students were made to students and no action was taken to even notify students of the situation. The following statement can be found on the Montana State website:

“As a land grant university, MSU is committed to developing and sustaining a culture of inclusion, social justice, and diversity. A central goal in MSU's strategic plan is to broaden access for underrepresented populations and increase academic success for all students through excellence in undergraduate education.”

A hypocritic institution is not a purposeful institution. MSU has the ability and duty to protect its students, especially minority groups, and is not doing so. I ask that Montana State produces a written statement on how it will address threats to all of its statements. This statement should describe what measures and training will be undertaken by faculty and staff to ensure that

these threats will be dealt with. I believe that there is a place for reason in an academic institution and am confident in MSU's ability to establish this as the precedent.

Thank you.

**From:** [Frances Kim](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:49:59 PM

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**\*\*External Sender\*\***

Hi there,

I might be late to this, but I want to submit a comment.

I have been working in Montana as a public health professional for over 6 years. I started a nonprofit to provide a safe space for Montanans of color to recreate in the beautiful space many of us call home. However, many BIPOC and LGBTQ+ are under threat by the increasing hate against marginalized people. I implore the Montana university system to listen and take action against the hate that increasingly threatens our marginalized communities.

Frances

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Frances L. Kim, MPH

Pronouns: she/they

Research Associate, [JG Research & Evaluation](#)

email: [frances.leekim@gmail.com](mailto:frances.leekim@gmail.com)

**From:** [James Braithwaite](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:09:04 AM

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\*\*External Sender\*\*

To whom it may concern,

I am disturbed by the lack of action regarding several threats against students of color in your university. Something needs to be done in order to protect those that attend and to discourage others from attempting to escalate or act on these threats.

Respectfully,

James Braithwaite