



Minutes
Montana Board of Regents
November 16-17, 2023

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Meeting convened at 8:31 a.m.

Regents Present: Joyce Dombrowski, Chair, Todd Buchanan, Vice-Chair, Casey Lozar, Jeff Southworth, Brianne Rogers, Loren Bough, and Garret Yeager. Ex officio members present included Commissioner of Higher Education, Clayton Christian, and Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier. Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen was excused.

Welcome and Comments by Chair Dombrowski | *00:03:30*

Chair Dombrowski welcomed everyone to the meeting. She welcomed the new Student Regent Garret Yeager and President Sangrey-Billy from Stone Child College. She expressed her appreciation for the continued partnership with the tribal colleges and the work being done that supports Montana's Native American students. Chair Dombrowski recognized the Montana University System Faculty Organization, expressed her gratitude for their continued efforts and hard work, and welcomed faculty representative Lauren Fern. Chair Dombrowski thanked President Bodnar and the University of Montana for all their efforts and hard work in hosting the meeting. She shared a few highlights of exciting things happening on the University of Montana Missoula campus and provided an agenda overview.

Welcome by President Bodnar | *00:08:51*

President Bodnar welcomed everyone to the University of Montana with a special thanks to the Board of Regents for their continued support of Montana students. He recognized this gathering place as the original aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people and said the University of Montana bears continued responsibility to honor and care for this land. He gave a presentation sharing UM's vision, the 130-year promise of inclusive prosperity, the fostering of a healthy democracy across the MUS, UM's commitment to student access and success, and the Grizzly Promise – a program in the works to offer a tuition free education to Montana students coming from families that make \$50,000 or less. He acknowledged UM's highest recorded retention rate and attributed it to UM's revamped orientation, new advising model, technology improvements, teaching innovations, and the focus on a vibrant campus experience and the role it plays in students' mental wellbeing. He highlighted a few things UM is doing to enhance the student campus experience. He acknowledged the power a UM education has by honoring a few students and their success, including the prestigious scholarships they have received. He talked about the research success at UM and the growth as an R1 Research University over the past few years. He addressed the impact research has on the community, such as the Center for Translational Medicine which



received a \$12.3 million grant from the NIH for a TB vaccine trial, the College of Health and the research they conduct on the impact of extreme environmental conditions on soldiers, and the College of Forestry and Conservation which received grants to install and monitor climate stations across Montana. He highlighted grants received that support indigenous students, faculty, and research. He reported the University of Montana was named the top University in the nation for its service to community and country for the 2nd year in a row. He talked about UM's largest infrastructure refresh and highlighted some of the projects taking place. He shared UM's obligation to adapt to meet students' needs, addressed the challenges of misinformation that plague today's society, and shared a few things UM is doing to tackle it. He discussed the opportunities available for students to go directly into the workforce including Accelerate Montana and rapid training programs. He closed by thanking everyone and the MUS for their continued efforts in serving Montana students and communities.

Approval of Minutes | 00:32:12

- September 20-21, 2023, Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner's and System Report | 00:32:32

Commissioner Christian thanked Chair Dombrowski and the Board for their continued dedication to the MUS. He expressed his gratitude to President Bodnar and his staff for hosting the meeting and making everyone feel welcome, especially during this busy time of year. He welcomed and thanked the new Student Regent, Garret Yeager, faculty representative Lauren Fern, and all the faculty and MUS staff for their dedication to Montana students. He spoke to the uniqueness of the November meeting and its valuable role in building our partnership with the Legislature, the K-12 community, and the tribal education community to enhance the lives of Montana students. He acknowledged a new task force created to address the changes AI is bringing and the importance of being on the front end as a University System to adapt and prepare for these technological advances. The Commissioner stressed the importance of the student access initiative and the need to increase the number of Montana students going on to some form of higher education to meet workforce needs and to get more Montanans engaged in higher education. He acknowledged Montana being designated one of 31 regional tech hubs. This designation will bring world class research and innovation to Montana campuses leading to student opportunities and student success. The designation also has the potential to increase enrollment and bolster Montana's economy. Commissioner Christian expressed his gratitude to Senator Daines and Senator Tester for their support in the CHIPS and Science Act and advocating for rural states. He thanked all the collaborators, partners, and key players for their tremendous amount of work in bringing this opportunity to Montana.

Deputy Commissioner for Academic, Research & Student Affairs Joe Thiel explained this tech hub designation is a multi-decade investment which identifies regions primed for new types of growth and an investment in technologies that are important to national security. He said the federal government is considering how to develop this technology



with the next step being the actual funding. Only five to ten hubs will be funded with the first round of \$50 to \$75 million allocations which will go into three to eight different projects revolving around ecosystems, optics, and photonics. He thanked the team and their efforts and said applications for the first tranche of funding are due at the end of February, with awards to be announced in August or September. He noted that of the 31 designated hubs Montana is among just three designated for rural states.

- Enrollment Update | *00:49:07*

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, gave a historical overview of the MUS fall enrollment. He updated the BOR on resident and non-resident trends across the MUS and provided detail pertaining to student type, campus type as well as a national perspective of high school graduates in the state of Montana as well as across the United States for upcoming years. Discussion followed.

- Resident Student Access | *00:56:46*

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, gave an overview of OCHE planning and next steps regarding resident student access in Montana. Director Lemmon outlined a four-year plan for potentially implementing a systemwide central application for all MUS campuses through Apply Montana. Such a system could prepopulate applications and facilitate direct admission and transfer opportunities for students. Campus feedback and concerns were discussed as well as the potential impact of adopting these strategies along with what positive outcomes might exist in the longer term. Next steps on an implementation group being assembled and coordination with campuses was given. Discussion followed.

Craig Stafford, representing Liaison International, a company that specializes in admissions management, presented on Liaison's relationship with OCHE in exploring a central application system. He described other state systems' use of a central application and offered a historical overview of the breadth of services and support it provided. He described the positive impacts Montana may realize in utilizing a central application. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Christian stressed the importance and the commitment of the MUS and OCHE in using a centralized application system with input from all campuses along with a partnership with Liaison to increase enrollment. Discussion followed.

- Campus Reports | *02:02:54*
- Introductions & Acknowledgements | *02:03:14*

Waded Cruzado, President MSU, introduced Alison Harmon, Vice President of Research and Economic Development, Doralyn Rossmann, Dean, MSU Library, Brian Gillespie, Dean, Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, and Steve Swinford, Vice President, Student Success. Chancellor Reid, UM Western, introduced Liane Forrester, Interim Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance, and Estee



Aiken, Dean of Strategic Initiatives. President Bodnar, UM, introduced Michael Musick, Interim Co-Dean of the College of Arts and Media. Commissioner Christian introduced Kerry Davant, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Dr. Jayci Hacker, Director of Student Well-being.

Budget, Administration, and Audit Committee | 02:11:32

INFORMATION | 02:11:40

- a. Budget, Administration, & Audit Committee Workplan and Calendar

Chair Lozar reported that the committee met a few weeks ago to go through the agenda items. He then welcomed Garret Yeager to the Board of Regents. He discussed the consent items and the process these items go through before coming before the Board.

CONSENT | 02:12:52

Facility Items:

- a. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off-Campus Lease with Hamilton Public Schools; UM Bitterroot ITEM 209-1006-R1123 | Attachment #1
- b. Request for Authorization to Maintain Structural Components at Bobcat Stadium; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2002-R1123 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Authorization to Execute an Amendment to the License Agreement for the Distributed Antenna System (DAS) at Bobcat Stadium; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2004-R1123
- d. Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement for the State Combined Lab; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2005-R1123 | Attachment #1
- e. Request for Authorization to Grant a Pipeline Agreement and Easement to North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCOMRWA); Montana Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 209-2301-R1123 | Attachment #1
- f. Request for Authorization to Lease Parking Spaces to McDonald Hall; MSU Billings ITEM 209-2705-R1123
- g. Request for Authorization to Lease Parking Spaces to SCL Health – Montana, dba St. Vincent Healthcare; MSU Billings ITEM 209-2706-R1123
- h. Request for Authorization to Grant Easement; UM Western ITEM 209-1601-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- i. Request for Authorization to Execute a Ground Lease at the Helena Regional Airport Located at 3232 Airport Road; Helena College UM ITEM 209-1903-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Other:

- a. Request for Approval of Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program (MRPIP) Candidates; OCHE/MUS ITEM 209-101-R1123
- b. Request for Authorization to Appoint Members to the Fire Services Training Advisory Council; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2401-R1123



ACTION | 02:13:49

- a. Request for Authorization to Remodel Gallagher Business Building Classrooms; UM Missoula ITEM 209-1005-R1123 | Attachment #1

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Budget and Planning, requested Board approval for the remodel of the Gallagher Business Building at the University of Montana. Lyons noted the building has not had any major improvements since it was constructed in 1996. Lyons indicated this is part of UM's overall plan for campus-wide classroom renovations. Discussion followed.

- b. Request to Construct a Dedicated Pedestrian Corridor in the Area of What is Now Grant Street; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2001-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

John How, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management at Montana State University, presented the request to construct the pedestrian improvements. How provided details of the new pedestrian corridor and the importance for safety and better traffic flow in the south campus district. How provided a funding summary and estimated construction costs. Discussion followed.

- c. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct the Facilities Yard Relocation Project; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2003-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

John How gave a cost estimate and timeline for the project. He discussed MSU's goals regarding this plan. He provided an aerial view of the area and the projected relocation and construction.

- d. Request for Authorization to Construct an Athletic Indoor Practice Facility; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2007-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

John How, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management at Montana State University, presented the request to construct a new indoor practice facility. How discussed why an indoor practice facility is needed and the overall impact to the fieldhouse area. How provided a funding summary and estimated construction costs. Discussion followed.

- e. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design the Aurora Complex; MSU Northern ITEM 209-2008-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Greg Kegel, Chancellor at Montana State University Northern, presented the request to plan and design the new Aurora Complex on campus. Kegel provided background on the importance of the project for recruitment and retention for MSUN. Kegel requested the planning and design begin soon to get all stakeholders involved to develop a facility to meet the needs of the students attending MSUN. Discussion followed.



- f. Request for Authorization to Purchase Hangar at 3232 Airport Road for Instructional Use; Helena College UM ITEM 209-1902-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Budget and Planning, requested Board approval to purchase an airline hangar for instructional purposes for Helena College UM. Lyons provided details of the existing hangar and academic plans to expand the aviation programs being offered. Lyons noted a request for approval of a remodel would come at a later date. Discussion followed.

INFORMATION | 02:45:48

- a. Budget Framework

Deputy Commissioner Trevor shared a presentation of the MUS budget framework, explaining how policies and principles are aligned regarding tuition, legislative appropriations, state allocation, and financial aid. He noted this framework has been in place since 2009. He then discussed the breakdown of revenue per student FTE. Discussion followed.

- b. Course Materials Program

Deputy Commissioner Trevor said this topic was not yet ready for discussion and the Academic Research and Student Affairs Committee and will work to provide more details at the March meeting.

The Board members all expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Regent Brianne Rogers for all her work and mentorship as her term as a Board member comes to an end.

Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee | 03:10:52

CONSENT

Emeriti Faculty:

- a. Miller; UM Missoula ITEM 209-1003-R1123
- b. Waltz; UM Missoula ITEM 209-1004-R1123
- c. Young; Montana Technological University ITEM 209-1501-R1123

Tenure Faculty:

- d. UM Missoula; ITEM 209-1000-R1123
- e. MSU Bozeman; ITEM 209-2000-R1123

Staff Items:

- f. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and /or Business Participation Under MUSP 407; UM Missoula ITEM 209-1008-R1123 | Attachment #1



ACTION

- a. Honorary Doctorate, UM Missoula ITEM 209-1007-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

President Bodnar presented the request to award an honorary doctorate to Mae Nan Ellingson.

- b. Regents Professor Nomination, UM ITEM 209-1009-R1123 | Attachment #1

Regent Buchanan emphasized the honor and privilege of this nomination and the uniqueness of recognizing a Regents Professor at a meeting.

President Bodnar presented the request for authorization to award a Regents Professorship to Dr. Cory Cleveland. He then shared a video highlighting Dr. Cleveland's accomplishments and achievements.

Dr. Cleveland shared his sincere gratitude for the great honor of being awarded Regents Professor and expressed his appreciation for his students and colleagues.

A motion of approval of action item b. ITEM 209-1009-R1123, was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Montana State University Northern Mission Statement ITEM 209-2801-R1123

Deputy Commissioner Thiel spoke to the Board's policy pertaining to campus mission parameters and the role they play in the ecosystem of higher education. He added that part of each institution's accreditation process is a regular reflection on its mission statement.

Provost Brown, MSU Northern, shared they went through a successful NWCCU campus visit as part of their seven-year accreditation cycle. She stressed the importance of having a mission that is measurable and represents the institution. She said MSU Northern has had the same mission statement for several years and with feedback from students and faculty would like to keep it the same.

- d. Request for Authorization to Obtain an Academic Brewer License; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2006-R1123 | Attachment #1

Provost Mokwa, MSU, said this brewers license will be beneficial to Montana's agricultural industry. He spoke to the changes in Montana law with House Bill 31 last legislative session making these licenses now available to all post-secondary institutions. He explained the brewing process from developing seeds in the lab, then to the greenhouse and on to the 7 agricultural experiment stations, and finally returned to be analyzed. He stressed this isn't just about beer, but rather the importance of plant science, biochemistry, and agricultural operations. Currently there are three small



distilleries located 20 miles from campus which is logistically not optimal for students to participate. This license will bring the equipment back to campus for a more streamlined operation.

- e. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis | Supporting Documentation

Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained the process, careful development, and review these request to plan proposals undergo. Representatives from each campus gave a brief presentation of their items.

Provost Mokwa, MSU, presented the request to plan proposal for a Minor in Precision Agriculture and Land Management Systems. Questions and discussion followed.

Provost Lawrence, UM, presented the request to plan proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

INFORMATION

Academic Review Items:

- a. Academic Approval Memo

Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained these are all the items, requests and plans for new programs that have reached the next stage of development for final approval.

- b. Academic Program Planning Review

Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained that per policy and the seven-year accreditation cycle all academic programs are reviewed for any needed changes to ensure programs remain up-to-date and relevant.

Strategic Priority Items:

- c. LMS Update

Susan Balter-Reitz, Director of Online Initiatives, provided an update on the Single Learning Management System initiative. She discussed the history of the initiative, walked through the scoring process of the finalists, and announced that the new vendor for the MUS will be Canvas by Instructure. She explained the reasons why Canvas was selected by the scoring committee, as well as how it will further the goals of the MUS, with an emphasis on tools that will allow the system to improve student access and faculty success. She also outlined the next steps in the process at both the campus and system level for the student well-being trainings. Discussion followed.

Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs & Student Engagement, and Dr. Jayci Hacker, Director of Student Well-being, presented on a new initiative to develop an MUS training to meet Title IX, VAWA, and Clery compliance needs for sexual assault



prevention education, substance use prevention education, and mental health training. In collaboration with MUS campuses, OCHE will develop a new student training that will be rolled out across the system starting in Spring 2025. OCHE has long contracted with a vendor to provide system-wide trainings but there is now the opportunity to develop a home-grown version that will allow focus on the specific needs of Montana students, the resources available to support students on campuses and in our communities, and gather information about how to enhance other programming to better support students across the MUS.

d. AIMA Update

Director McLean thanked UM for hosting the AIMA Council, then reported that campuses continue to see steady American Indian student enrollment, retention and graduation growth and that American Indian student enrollment is the highest on record for the MUS. Almost all campuses saw American Indian student enrollment growth. McLean further outlined that the MUS once again saw growth in American Indian student retention with 2/3 of MUS campuses seeing growth. McLean said that American Indian four- and six-year graduation rates continue to grow in the MUS. Finally, McLean highlighted that American Indian student persistence grew by almost 5% from the 2021 to 2022 cohort of students. McLean said the AIMA Council will bring new recommendations forward in Spring 2024 and campus action plans around them will be due June 5, 2024. McLean highlighted the importance of data usage and the relevance of new efforts outlined in the recommendations in driving strong outcomes and pointed to the need to stay laser focused on this work to continue to see growth on all campuses and on all data points. Questions and discussion followed.

e. Montana Tribal Colleges Update

President Corey Sangrey-Billy of Stone Child College presented on behalf of all of Montana's 7 independent Tribal Colleges. She highlighted that work is happening between Stone Child and each of Montana's six other Tribal Colleges including work on HiSET, Common Course Numbering, and the course sharing platform, Quottly. She also highlighted the degrees and offerings at Stone Child as well as the campus enrollment. Finally, Sangrey-Billy indicated the importance of campus level points of contact with the Tribal Colleges. Questions and discussion followed.

Public Comment | 05:17:15

Laurie Franklin, Missoula community Rabbi, spoke to the collaborative effort of faculty, staff, students, and community members in addressing and resolving the issue of tiles in Corbin Hall containing images of swastikas, discussing the history of the symbol before and after it was used by the Nazi party. She shared that a bronze plaque has been dedicated with a QR code that now exists along with the tiles and is used for community education.

Ariana Rodenbeck, UM, shared the frustration of students that the campus is selling more parking passes than available spots to students and the problems it is causing both financially and academically.

Meeting Recessed at 4:16 pm



Friday, November 17, 2023

The Board reconvened at 8:37 am

Two Year and Community Committee | *05:29:40*

a. Placement Policy

Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs & Student Engagement, and Lauren Fern, Assistant Professor and Math Discipline Lead, shared a draft update to BOR Policy 301.17 on math and writing placement. The policy reflects changes developed by the MUS Developmental Education Steering Committee and includes feedback and input collected from faculty, advising, math and writing departments, and registrars by campus provosts. Campuses will have discretion over their math and writing placement approaches so long as methods meet the minimum guidelines articulated in the policy. Meeting minimum guidelines ensures that campuses can accept placement determination from other MUS institutions. Placement standards include multiple measures assessment, default placement into college level math and writing, ability for campuses to maintain pre-requisite courses if they provide rationale and outcomes data that demonstrates that students are more likely to have better outcomes in a pre-requisite course. The placement policy is one measure in a multi-year effort to better support students who enter the system with academic preparation needs.

b. Perkins State Plan Update

Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education presented a Perkins State Plan Update. Ms. Treaster highlighted why the State Plan is important to strategies and activities related to education and workforce development in Montana. Ms. Treaster provided an overview of the secondary and postsecondary core indicators of performance, including optional secondary performance indicators that each state can choose from. Ms. Treaster also shared the Perkins State Plan Committee membership and provided some of the topics that the committee will provide input on. Ms. Treaster then shared the information about the public Perkins State Plan survey that is available to people in Montana to complete. Discussion followed.

c. Two-Year Education and Community College Working Group: Non-Credit Credentialing

Missoula College Dean Tom Gallagher gave a presentation on noncredit workforce and training credentials sharing some statistics on noncredit learners in the workforce. He shared reasons why people prefer these opportunities, including that they are relevant, streamlined, stackable, and valuable which makes it easy to connect to a career. He shared some examples of noncredit training programs that are available. He spoke to the vision of the noncredit training task force, topics that will be discussed, and national collaboration. He recognized the members of the task force. Questions and discussion followed.



a. EDL Update

Director McLean updated the Board on the industry sectors chosen through data analysis for the micro pathway effort. The industries are education, healthcare, and technology, and the three T's (technology, trades, and tourism). McLean highlighted engagement with employer partners and specific work toward T-Profiles for every single micro pathway. She referenced the great partnership with Bitterroot Health in efforts to complete the very first T-Profile to identify 21st century skills as well as technical skills necessary to serve in the role of Certified Medical Assistant and highlighted the importance of skill development in every micro pathway that will be developed. McLean noted that Salish Kootenai College has signed on to be the very first Tribal College to participate in the EDL process and will join the MUS work. Finally, McLean highlighted the seamlessness between the EDL micro pathway efforts and Sprint degrees.

Education Interim Committee/Board of Regents Joint Session | 06:40:04

- Welcome and Introductions

Chair Dombrowski welcomed everyone to the meeting. She expressed her gratitude for the continued relationship with the Legislative Branch and stressed how important these joint meetings are. She gave a brief agenda overview.

EDIC Chair, Senator Dan Salomon, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with the BOR.

Members present introduced themselves and their roles.

- MUS Initiatives

Deputy Commissioner Thiel welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the various MUS initiatives and the important role they have in serving students.

- Sprint Degrees

Director DeWolf King presented on the MUS Sprint Degree project. She provided an update and overview of the project along with a framing of what the four main areas of focus are for Sprint Degrees-- intentional workforce development, time to completion, industry engagement, and value of degree. She also discussed a recent survey that was completed by current Sprint Degree students. The survey results provided information on student type, interest, and areas of opportunity and growth. Lastly, Director DeWolf King presented the new Sprint Degrees that will begin in Fall 2024 and Fall 2025. There will be six new programs: Automotive Technology at Highlands College, Occupational Therapy Assistant at Helena College, Diesel Technology at MSU-Northern, Elementary Education at UM Western, Associate in Nursing at Missoula College and Construction Management at Montana Technological University. Discussion Followed.

- Seamless System



Deputy Commissioner Thiel presented slides on the Seamless System Initiative. He gave a brief overview of the learning management systems and the work being done to unify them to create a more seamless experience for students to enable them to finish coursework on time.

- MUS Research and EDA Tech Hub Update

Deputy Commissioner Thiel spoke about the research, scientific, and economic development enterprise of the MUS and the collaboration among the MUS, Chamber of Commerce, Department of Commerce, and industries across the state. He highlighted Montana is one of the top performing research enterprises of a rural state in the entire country and the benefits and opportunities that brings to campuses and students across Montana. He shared a presentation on research expenditures, which has led Montana to be the second-fastest growing in the nation, Montana's Carnegie R1 designation, and the new businesses and companies that have been created. Lastly, he spoke to the dramatic increase in venture capital.

Allison Harmon, Vice President of Research, MSU, gave a detailed overview of the Office of Research and Economic Development teams and the work they do to support students' persistence to a timely degree completion. She highlighted several students and the prestigious scholarships they have earned. Allison spoke to the importance of graduate education and highlighted the indigenous and rural health doctoral program. She acknowledged outstanding faculty for 2022-2023 and their achievements. She concluded with a brief overview of the MSU innovation campus.

Scott Whittenburg, Vice President of Research, UM, shared some statistics on graduate education growth in the last six years and highlighted that Native American graduate student enrollment is up 34%. He shared some national statistics on prestigious student scholarships awarded at UM which represent the quality students produced at UM. He recognized several faculty members, their titles, and the research they are conducting. He gave a brief overview of the Economic and Workforce development, the Montec building and the programs and companies within, and plans for expansion. He explained what the National Science Foundation (NSF) is, what they do to drive economic development, and the types of funding available. He said UM and MSU both received type 1 funding. He said the type 1 funding is for advances in Precision Forestry and Rangeland Management in US Forest Service Region One. He spoke to the ecosystem of several different companies and agencies that want to join in the work being done in developing this program. He spoke about type 2 funding and the impact it can have on the research enterprise and shared the hubs and spokes model of the funding.

Deputy Commissioner Thiel discussed expanding innovation in the region with the Headwaters Tech Hub and NSF engine grants. He shared this is a multi-decade investment to make sure the technologies are being developed and manufactured in the United States. He expressed the significance and privilege it is to have this Tech Hub designation and thanked all the partners that were involved in bringing this to Montana. He talked about optics and photonics technologies and their many applications. He



gave an overview of what this designation means and the many resources and funding now available. He shared that there is a team working on the implementation award application and what that entails.

Dr. Joe Shaw, Professor and Director of the Optical Technology Center, MSU, stated in 1995 the Board of Regents voted to create the Optical Technology Center at MSU. He spoke about the research and education in optics and photonics over the past 30 years. He shared the field of optics and photonics has grown from three companies in Bozeman to now 40, which is the highest per capita in the country. He explained smart photonic sensors, what they do, the unique competitive advantage they offer, and the data they provide.

Dr. Paul Gladen, Director of Accelerate Montana, emphasized this funding is through the Economic Development Administration, (EDA) with a priority in job creation and workforce development. He gave a detailed overview of what workforce development looks like, business opportunities, education and training pathways, job opportunities, being on the cutting edge of technology, how these technologies are used, and the economic growth this hub will create in Montana over the next 10 years.

Director Scott Osterman, Montana Department of Commerce, spoke to the work and collaboration of the team to secure this opportunity for Montana. He said this will create careers in technology, specifically in photonics, and future opportunity for growth as technology advances over time. He shared the next goal of the team is to secure type 2 funding. Questions and discussion followed.

Having concluded the agenda for the joint meeting between the BOR and EDIC, Chair Dombrowski thanked the members of the EDIC for their attendance and continued with the BOR agenda.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | 08:17:40

Superintendent Arntzen thanked everyone and acknowledged this great opportunity to focus on education. She introduced the Teacher of the Year, Kevin Kicking Woman. She discussed the Every Student Succeeds Act, and said that Montana is the only state to be exempt from the summative test requirement. She explained the model that is being used and the information it immediately provides to teachers regarding both successes and challenges. She highlighted some ACT statistics from across the state. The Superintendent discussed the challenges in the middle school aged population and what can be done to address them. She talked about the \$3 million in Covid relief money that wasn't used and has asked the federal government to redistribute it across the state. She recognized Montana Ready, Perkins, and CTE.

Shannon Boswell, CTAE Unit Manager, OPI, spoke about the state plan for Perkins and the impact it has on post-secondary programs. She shared some stats on the Perkins survey being conducted that will give a good look at how to implement CTE and work-based learning across the state.

Public Comment | 08:32:01



Lauren Fern spoke on behalf of Rabi Mark Kula. She expressed his gratitude in the navigation of the divide that surrounds the swastika tiles in Corbin Hall and the resolve of the UM administration in validating the opinion of both sides.

Elizabeth Putnum, Chair of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Skaggs School of Pharmacy, expressed concern over distribution of funds among the MUS, particularly the performance-based funding formula being used. She encouraged the Board and OCHE to reconsider reinvesting at UM.

Maggie Bell, representing the Associated Students of the University of Montana, thanked Garret Yeager for being the students' representative on the Board. She spoke to the needs for funding for student groups and shared their fundraiser of Griz Gear.

Committee Reports & Action | 08:40:33

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

CONSENT

Facility Items:

- a. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off-Campus Lease with Hamilton Public Schools; UM Bitterroot ITEM 209-1006-R1123 | Attachment #1
- b. Request for Authorization to Maintain Structural Components at Bobcat Stadium; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2002-R1123 | Attachment #1
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- i. Request for Authorization to Execute a Ground Lease at the Helena Regional Airport Located at 3232 Airport Road; Helena College UM ITEM 209-1903-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Other:

- j. Request for Approval of Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program (MRPIP) Candidates; OCHE/MUS ITEM 209-101-R1123



- k. Request for Authorization to Appoint Members to the Fire Services Training Advisory Council; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2401-R1123

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

ACTION | 08:41:51

- a. Request for Authorization to Remodel Gallagher Business Building Classrooms; UM Missoula ITEM 209-1005-R1123 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 209-1005-R1123, was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request to Construct a Dedicated Pedestrian Corridor in the Area of What is Now Grant Street; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2001-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 209-2001-R1123, was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct the Facilities Yard Relocation Project; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2003-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 209-2003-R1123, was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Request for Authorization to Construct an Athletic Indoor Practice Facility; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2007-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 209-2007-R1123, was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- e. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design the Aurora Complex; MSU Northern ITEM 209-2008-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item e., ITEM 209-2008-R1123, was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0)

- f. Request for Authorization to Purchase Hangar at 3232 Airport Road for Instructional Use; Helena College UM ITEM 209-1902-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item f., ITEM 209-1902-R1123, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0)

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee | 08:45:45



CONSENT

Emeriti Faculty:

- a. Miller; UM Missoula ITEM 209-1003-R1123
- b. Waltz; UM Missoula ITEM 209-1004-R1123
- c. Young; Montana Technological University ITEM 209-1501-R1123

Tenure Faculty:

- d. UM Missoula; ITEM 209-1000-R1123
- e. MSU Bozeman; ITEM 209-2000-R1123

Staff Item:

- f. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and /or Business Participation Under MUSP 407; UM Missoula ITEM 209-1008-R1123 | Attachment #1

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

ACTION | 08:46:21

- a. Honorary Doctorate, UM Missoula ITEM 209-1007-R1123 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 209-1007-R1123, was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Regents Professor Nomination, UM ITEM 209-1009-R1123 | Attachment #1
- c. Montana State University Northern Mission Statement ITEM 209-2801-R1123

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 209-2801-R1123, was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Request for Authorization to Obtain an Academic Brewer License; MSU Bozeman ITEM 209-2006-R1123 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 209-2006-R1123, was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (7-0).

- e. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis | Supporting Documentation

A motion for approval of action item e., Request to plan proposals, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- Appeal #1
- Appeal #2
- Appeal #3

Chair Dombrowski explained the process related to the appeals. She called for a motion to hear any of the listed appeals. No motion was made to hear any of the appeals, and therefore the Commissioner's decision was upheld.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

1/11/24
Date

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

1/11/24
Date

[Signature]
Date Signed by:
Todd Buchanan
FC0D60047BD0488...
Todd Buchanan
Vice-Chair, Board of Regents