Doug Steele – VP report on state legislature

60 first term legislators

Personal assessment

House appropriation – straight party line
Any bill with additional expenditure will be voted down

Higher Education is not being singled out in cuts – equal across the board
Potential unfunded liability $40 million
Business $20 million
Underfunded Medicaid-medicare $40 million

Bill – overhaul K-12
April 21st closes

HB 2 – majority of funding comes from this
put $15 million back in – replace stimulus money
$8 million adjustments – fee waivers
Down $32 million, have to establish priorities supporting tribal colleges
PBS satellite uplink – losing
$400 K biodiesel research – benefits a single place
Both amendments failed

BOR – not very willing to ↑ tuition
$1 million loss = 1%↑ in tuition

HB 5 – MSU has no long range building funding

HB 439
Bonded bil - $90 million museum – not (gov)
Favors bonded indebtedness
New $26 m state fund - $90 or $100 million total
$12 million - MSU Billings – new science building
$4 m Added COT-Great Falls
$7.9 million – MSU-Northern
$3 million UM Western
Veterans Home, Butte
Up now to $97 million
$1 million – 7 ag buildings
$7.5 million new diagnostic lab – vet
20 year bonded indebtedness – more infrastructure – more jobs
2 amendments

HB 13
Pay plan – voted down pay plan
1% to 3% pay raise not going through
Could be waiting for next state revenue projection
May forego pay increase – for an increase in the benefit pool
SB8 – post tenure review – joint resolution 48-2 vote
Remove sabbaticals suggested

State funding levels for Higher Education
Montana provides 40% of higher ed costs
Colorado 8%
Nevada 15%
But Colorado pays $8,500/student
Montana pays $4,000/student