Montana Board of Regents Meeting
Conference Call
March 21, 2008
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Minutes

Statewide locations for 3/21 Board of Regents Conference Call Meetings:
- Missoula: University of Montana, Administration Building
- Bozeman: Montana State University, President's Office
- Great Falls: Great Falls College, President's Office
- Helena: University of Montana, President's Office
- Dillon: University of Montana, President's Office

11:00 AM Convene.
Roll Call.

ACTION


b. Authority to Plan and Design New Sky Suites at Bobcat Stadium. MSU-Bozeman.

INFORMATION

Elevation of Position of Director of Two-Year Education to Deputy Commissioner for Two-Year Education. OCHE. Position Description.

1:00 PM ADJOURN on completion of business
MINUTES

Montana Board of Regents Conference Call Meeting
March 21, 2008

Friday, March 21, 2008

The meeting convened at 11:10 AM.

Roll Call indicated a quorum present.

Regents Present: Lynn Hamilton, Chair, Todd Buchanan, Clayton Christian, Janine Pease, Kerre Melvin, Stephen Barrett Vice Chair, all by phone, and Sheila Stearns ex officio in person. Lila Taylor, Governor Schweitzer ex officio and Linda McCulloch ex officio, all excused.

Others Present by Phone: Present at the Commissioner's Office were Mick Robinson, Cathy Swift, Kevin McRae, Roger Barber, Arlene Parece, Brad Eldredge, Alyssa Hudders, and Lynette Brown all of OCHE; and Dean Daniel Bingham of UM-Helena COT, and Jane Baker of MT Tech of The UM COT; President Gamble, Craig Roloff, Peter Fields, and Allen Yarnell, all of MSU-Bozeman; and Tom Gibson of OCHE; Chancellor Sexton John Cech and George White, all of MSU-Billings; Mary Ellen Baukol, Joe Schaffer and Judy Hys of MSU Great Falls COT; Interim Chancellor Rolf Groseth, Joe Callahan, and Greg Kegel all of MSU-Northern; Royce Engstrom, Bob Duringer, Teresa Branch, and Jim Foley all of The UM-Missoula; Chancellor Richard Storey and Karl Ulrich of The UM-Western; President Hicks of Miles Community College; President Jim Cargill of Dawson Community College; Pat Wise and Evan Barrett of the Office of the Governor; and Victoria Clark and Patty Furniss of the BVCC work group.

ACTION

a. Authorization to Lease Bobcat Stadium Playing Field to MSU Foundation for Installing an Artificial Playing Surface; MSU-Bozeman.

ITEM 138-2003-C0308
President Geoff Gamble explained that current legislation permits leasing for purposes of the construction of athletic facilities. Money is available to cover the $900,000U by private and in-kind gifts. The Foundation has raised $4M and is authorized to cover any expenses that are not covered by the in-kind donations.

The motion by Regent Barrett moved approval of Item 138-2002-C0308. Motion passed unanimously.


President Gamble explained this is a request for authority to proceed with planning and design work only and to allow for expenditures to cover the costs associated with this portion of the plan.

Regent Barrett moved approval. Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATION

Elevation of Position of Director of Two-Year Education to Deputy Commissioner for Two-Year Education; CCHE. Position Description.

Regent Hamilton reminded the group this was an information item only and that continuing discussions of two-year education overall would continue at later meetings. The intent of this discussion was not to determine a particular person for this position.

Regent Barrett supported the concept of elevating 2-year education to a deputy commissioner level position. He recommended strengthening the job description, circulating it and acting swiftly. With the legislative session approaching and the interest of Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget (PEPB) Committee and the legislature, as well as the reality of the budget process beginning soon, Regent Barrett reiterated the need to have a decision made and a candidate in place by the June 12 PEPB meeting.

Commissioner Stearns noted that, in this case, she wanted to do an internal search because of the need to fill the position promptly after Dr. Parson’s retirement, due to the workload and expectations related to the position. Dr. Parson’s retirement is effective April 30.

Regent Pease wanted to know the other regents’ viewpoints on the issue and cautioned making the decision too hastily. She suggested considering a state-wide search rather than an internal search.

Commissioner Stearns made the following points:
- that extensive collaboration and discussion had already taken place;