

PROVOST'S REPORT TO CAMPUS
Montana State University-Bozeman
April 2008

As outlined below, this academic year has seen continued enhancements in MSU's academic programs. We can all be very proud of the work of our faculty and support staff in regard to their many successes in teaching, scholarship and creative work, and outreach. Thanks to the talent and dedication of our faculty, students, and staff, MSU provides tremendous value to the people of our community, our state, and our nation, with a growing international impact. Planning is actively underway for the next legislative session and for MSU's comprehensive campaign, both of which will be important to our continued success.

PLANNING

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) (<http://www.montana.edu/opa/coms/strat.html>): The SPC is engaged in the annual process of updating the MSU Five Year Vision document. Goals are currently being developed for FY2013. Those goals will be presented to UPBAC for their consideration during the Spring 2008 semester. For information on the annual strategic planning process, contact Jim Rimpau at rimpau@montana.edu or Chris Fastnow at cfastnow@montana.edu. President Gamble emphasized the key goals of our strategic plan in his spring campus address: <http://www.montana.edu/cpa/news/nwview.php?article=5744>.

INSTRUCTIONAL INITIATIVES

American Studies Degree: Fall semester marked the debut of a new undergraduate degree program in American Studies, administered by University College. The American Studies degree offers a broad, integrated, and interdisciplinary approach for studying the United States. Interdisciplinary studies foster connections among disciplines and draw on multiple areas of knowledge. Students choose one of three focus areas: American Arts, American History, American Literature. (<http://www.montana.edu/amst/>)

Transfer Initiative: The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education has appointed Dr. Bill Macgregor, Professor of Professional & Technical Communications at Montana Tech, as the Director of Transferability Initiatives for the Montana University System (MUS). This is in response to the Montana Legislature's call on the MUS to develop simple and clear procedures and policies regarding the transfer of credits among the various units of the system, which was supported with significant funding. At the November 2007 Board of Regents meeting, the Commissioner announced a plan to move forward on common course numbering across the system for a limited number of courses. The details were discussed with Faculty Senate, and MSU has asked eight faculty to serve on the faculty councils that are discussing learning goals and outcomes in eight specific disciplinary areas. The stated goals of the councils are to a) Come to consensus about main learning outcomes associated with courses that are to be transferred as equivalents throughout the state, and b) Note and honor significant differences in learning

outcomes of apparently similar courses on different campuses. More information is available at <http://mus.edu/transfer/index2.asp>.

Graduate Education (<http://www.montana.edu/wwwdg/>): Graduate enrollment at MSU continued to grow and expand in 2006-2007. Graduate enrollment at MSU grew to 365 doctoral, 1228 masters, and 594 non-degree/specialist students for a new record total enrollment of 2,187. This represents an 8.6% increase over AY 06. To continue the growth of graduate programs, two new interdisciplinary doctoral programs have been implemented by the Division of Graduate Education (DGE): a doctoral fellowship program in the molecular biosciences and a NSF-funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) program in geobiological systems. Both programs combine the strengths of multiple departments, colleges, and research centers. Graduate students at MSU were also highly successful in completing their degree programs. A record number of graduate degrees were awarded in AY 07 with 471 students receiving specialist, masters, and doctoral degrees. Since our first student graduated in 1902 with a Master of Science degree in Botany, MSU has awarded more than 12,000 Master's degrees and nearly 1,700 doctoral degrees.

MSU has recently adopted a new set of policies regarding the allocation of tuition waivers for graduate programs. Full time Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants will receive full or nonresident tuition waivers, respectively, their first year of attendance. These policies have been widely shared and discussed across the campus and reflect the dedicated efforts of Carl Fox, Joe Fedock, the University Graduate Council, and many faculty to revise our policies and practices to foster growth in graduate education.

Summer Session: In response to the highly successful online course offerings over the past three summers, the Office of Summer Session is pleased to announce the scheduling of 17 online courses for Summer 2008, which is up from 9 in Summer 2007. For more information, visit the Summer Online Course web page at www.montana.edu/summer/online.

Program Review: A new Board of Regents policy requires all programs not separately accredited by an outside agency to participate in a comprehensive program review on a seven-year cycle. In 2006/2007, reviews of Media and Theater Arts, Earth Sciences, and Political Science were conducted. In 2007/2008 reviews of Microbiology, Architecture, Health and Human Development, Native American Studies and Global Studies will be conducted. Questions about program review can be directed to Jeff Adams (jadams@montana.edu).

Division of Health Sciences (DHS) (<http://www.montana.edu/dhs/>): The Board of Regents approved the *Center for Native Health Partnerships* to be housed within the Division of Health Sciences. The Center is supported by an NIH grant and its purpose is to reduce health disparities of Native Americans in Montana through community-based health projects that are conducted in partnership between community members and health researchers. The goals of the Center include: (1) develop partnerships and provide resources to enhance capabilities of Native American community members and researchers to work together on projects that address the health disparity needs identified by Native American communities in Montana; (2) increase the number of Native American college and university students who are actively engaged in

Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) on health issues of their home communities and (3) provide mentoring and support for CBPR projects that address needs identified by Native American communities in Montana. Pilot funds to support research projects are available through the Center.

The *Montana Medical Laboratory Science* (MLS) training program received support from the Board of Regents as part of a legislative initiative to address the healthcare workforce needs of the state. The MLS program will allow students from MSU, MSU-Billings and the University of Montana to complete their clinical training at MSU and in hospitals across Montana. This program is a collaborative effort between the DHS, the Department of Microbiology and the Montana hospitals that offer an opportunity for students to train in a highly underserved, yet critical health occupation and hopefully practice in the state.

International Programs (<http://www.montana.edu/international>): Being a comprehensive research university in today's world entails having a global outlook, an internationally diverse faculty and student body, and a rich array of international programs. The growing importance of international education is reflected in MSU's Strategic Vision which emphasizes expansion of international student enrollments, increased study abroad opportunities for MSU students, enhanced curriculum in foreign languages and international studies, growing international expertise on the part of the faculty, and expanded international partnerships to meet strategic institutional needs. Our study abroad programs continue to grow, involving more than 300 students during the last academic year. The campus continues to be increasingly international with almost 400 international students from more than 70 countries around the world. New innovations this year include launching an NSF-funded program which allows MSU undergraduate science students opportunities to join research teams at our partner universities in Norway. Another new program involves conducting a joint undergraduate research seminar with the University of Western Australia on Global Climate Change. Believing that it is critical for the United States to bridge the chasm of misunderstanding with the cultures of the Muslim world, MSU continues to build its programs relating to the Middle East. Programs include our award winning Arabic language program, now offered on 11 university campuses in the U.S. enrolling more than 230 students; new "dual diploma" programs with universities in Turkey through which a growing number of young Turkish undergraduates will be studying on campus; and new partnerships with institutions in the United Arab Emirates and elsewhere in the region. The Provost strongly believes MSU must continue to expand its international dimensions with leadership from the Office of International Programs.

New Academic Programs: The Montana Board of Regents approved the following additions to academic program offerings at Montana State University:

- BA in Music Technology
- Minor in Latin American and Latino Studies
- Certificate in Nursing Education

Two new centers were established:

- Center for Native Health Partnerships
- Astrobiology and Biogeochemistry Research Center

The Geographic Information and Analysis Center (GIAC) was renamed the Spatial Sciences Center.

OUTREACH

Distance Learning and Instructional Technology: Extended University (EU) (<http://eu.montana.edu>) is spearheading the development of **MSUOnline**, a strategic and coordinated effort to expand more of MSU's high-quality curricula into the online environment. **MSUOnline** will be a "one-stop shop" for students seeking online courses and programs, as well as for faculty seeking support for online course development. **MSUOnline** will provide incentives for course development, raise awareness of innovative e-learning technologies and develop coordinated policies, best practices and marketing plans. The resulting program will strengthen MSU's position in the e-learning environment while retaining traditional and non-traditional students and attracting new undergraduate and graduate students to MSU programs.

Extended University continues to support a number of MSU distance delivered programs including the National Teachers Enhancement Network (NTEN), the masters degree in science education (MSSE), and the masters degree in Family Financial Planning (FFP). EU's videoconferencing facilities play a role in many distance learning courses, such as the Arabic language program. Based at MSU, it reaches universities around the country. Since 2003, EU has supported and trained MSU faculty in WebCT, during which time course enrollments grew from 135 to 710 with 10,000 unique student enrollments. Some courses are fully online and others are hybrids of online learning and traditional teaching.

Rich Media Support for Outreach: EU has created video and audio podcasts for many campus and community entities, including ASMSU, the College of Letters & Science, Graduate Education, CEPAC, the Teaching and Learning Committee, TechRanch and the Intermountain Opera Company. View all the podcasts at: <http://eu.montana.edu/medialibrary>.

Studio 1080, an interactive multimedia center in EU's Burns Technology Center, is now open in the atrium of the EPS Building. Using touch-screen plasma screens and open access to museum-style multimedia exhibit-design software, the project aims to revolutionize how MSU students interact with each other and the community. Studio 1080 was funded privately including a lead gift from Lockheed Martin.

Extension Service (<http://extn.msu.montana.edu/>): MSU Extension is an educational resource dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of Montanans. With a presence in all 56 counties and 5 of the 7 Indian Reservations, county Extension agents and campus-based faculty/staff provide a wide variety of services including: assisting agricultural producers in becoming more profitable; working with families in being more resilient and healthy; coordinating programs for youth to experience positive life skills development; and assisting communities in becoming better places to live. A continuing emphasis has been placed on technological capacity. All county Extension offices are now on high-speed connections and a

web conferencing system has been implemented to create a stronger linkage between campus and off-campus locations. This expansion includes strengthening relationships across campus and developing more effective collaborations with cooperating partnerships. Grant funding of over two million dollars has been received from the Northwest Area Foundation to work with rural communities in Montana to address issues of capacity building, leadership development and poverty reduction.

The Big Sky Institute (BSI) <http://bsi.montana.edu/>: The Big Sky Institute has taken several key steps over the past year. BSI brought in two new staff, Twila Moon (glaciology and science education) and Katie Alvin (watershed science education and GIS), to work from a new BSI satellite office in Big Sky to bring science to people and people to science. In addition BSI worked with its new National Advisory Board to initiate several new science programs, including a Yellowstone Lake biodiversity study in partnership with TBI and Yellowstone National Park, the ambitious 45th Parallel climate and ecosystem monitoring project, and a privately funded research program building upon a 1970s MSU study of rock glaciers in the Madison Range.

ON-GOING INITIATIVES

Promotion and Tenure Implementation Committee: This Committee, established in Fall 2006 to address the recommendations of the University Promotion and Tenure Task Force, submitted its final report to the Provost and Faculty Senate in December 2007. The report provides specific recommendations for implementation regarding a limited number of promotion and tenure topics, including new definitions, explication of the external review process, and clarity in the quality and quantity of documentation associated with “in-depth assessment of teaching”. The recommendations include suggested Faculty Handbook language revisions. This report is being reviewed by various academic constituencies, with the expectation that formalized changes, i.e. Faculty Handbook language, and other documents to serve as guidelines for promotion and tenure processes will be developed in the near future.

NEW INITIATIVES

MSU Institutional Accreditation: MSU has initiated its efforts towards developing a comprehensive self-study report in preparation for an accreditation visit by representatives of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in October 2009. This re-accreditation process is being led by Joseph Fedock, Senior Vice Provost, with assistance from Bruce Morton, former Dean of the Libraries. Individuals have been appointed by President Gamble to serve as chairs for each of the nine standards associated with the accreditation self-study. The accreditation process requires institutions to examine their own goals, operations, achievements, and challenges, and is intended to provide a measure of institutional quality and accountability.

Two-Year Education: MSU was invited to prepare a proposal to establish two-year programs in the United Arab Emirates, specifically in Abu Dhabi. The primary audience for these programs will be Emirati citizens, and the curricula will be designed to meet their needs. Faculty Senate has been briefed on this opportunity. A team, including members of the Provost’s Office, faculty, deans and staff has been working on the details of the academic, organization, and fiscal

elements of the proposal, which will be shared (in draft form) this spring with UAE officials.

In addition, MSU is working with the COT in Great Falls to develop a plan to potentially transfer responsibility to Bozeman for two-year education in our region.

Association of Retire Faculty (ARF): A collaborative effort involving MSU leadership, the members of ARF, and Faculty Senate is underway to enhance the role of and improve relationships with our retired faculty and to tap their experience and expertise to benefit the mission of MSU. An office suite for retired faculty has been established in Hamilton Hall 212 and 213, and new policies for the assignment of emeritus status and for exit interviews are under development.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Paula Lutz joined MSU as the Dean of Letters and Science in July 2007. Long-time Dean of Libraries, Bruce Morton, stepped down as Dean in July 2007. Tamara Miller (previously Associate Dean of Libraries) assumed the role of Dean. Several new department heads were appointed: Steve Juroszek (Architecture), Tim Dunnagan (Health and Human Development), John Paxton (Computer Science) and Robert Maher (Electrical and Computer Engineering). Donna Williams (Nursing) and Brian Rossmann (Libraries) joined the ranks of Assistant/Associate Deans.

We can all be proud of the many accomplishments during 2007. We anticipate an even more energetic and exciting year in AY08/09.

David M. Dooley, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Joseph J. Fedock, Senior Vice Provost

Gregory Young, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Douglas Steele, Vice Provost and Director of Extension

Linda Hyman, Vice Provost for Health Sciences and Director WWAMI

Norman Peterson, Vice Provost for International Programs

Carl Fox, Vice Provost for Graduate Education

Jeff Adams, Asst Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education/Executive Director Summer Session

Kim Obbink, Director, Extended University

Clyde Carroll, Budget and Fiscal Director

Pat Chansley, Assistant to the Provost

Diane Heck, Administrative Associate

Anne Angermeyr, Program Coordinator, Summer Session