



**Chancellor's Cabinet Meeting: Agenda  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Dr. Stefani Hicswa, Susan Simmers, Dr. Susan Balter-Reitz, Dr. Kim Hayworth, Bill Kennedy, Maureen Brakke, Dr. Jim Barron, Brett Weisz, Dr. Jennifer Lynn, Joe McGeshick, Krista Montague, and Natalie Preston

**Guests:** COVID Incident Commander David Nordel

Meeting began at 2:00 pm.

**Special Town Hall Meeting:**

There will be a half-hour special Town Hall session on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm, right before the regularly scheduled COVID-19 Town Hall to present the budget update to campus.

**Legislative Update:**

Maureen Brakke provided the Legislative Update.

Chief Information Officer Brett Weisz asked Chancellor Hicswa what the process will be going forward to hear and ratify proposed changes to university policy. Chancellor Hicswa is working on the best strategy for this, agrees that a centralized location for policies would be best and should be housed on the intranet. The process for approving policy has yet to be written and finalized.

**Indian Education for All:**

Tribal Liaison Joe McGeshick reminded the group that MUS Recommendation 4 for the American Indian & Minority Achievement Council is to provide faculty/staff development. Indian Ed for all is designed for K-12 range and lacks higher education material, so Joe suggests an IEFA Colloquium, where staff and faculty can discuss more intellectual issues, such as identity.

Mr. McGeshick also announced the meeting of the non-profit group Elk River Indian Center (ERIC) downtown next week.

**Provost Search Update:**

The committee has narrowed the applicant pool to several highly-qualified semi-finalists. They will be interviewed via Web-ex, which will determine which finalists will then be invited to campus for in-person interviews. The goal is to have a new Provost in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Commencement Update:**

Chancellor Hicswa, Dave Nordel, and Maureen Brakke met with Commencement planning chair Cheri Johannes. The good news is that we will have a live graduation. The ceremony will feature a split ceremony, one in the morning and one in the afternoon so that only about 200 students graduate at each. Additional COVID-safe changes will be made such as reducing the platform party, and eliminating the faculty walk and regalia. Most importantly for students and families, the ceremony will take place!

**COVID-19 Update:**

Dave Nordel updated the group regarding the two locations for vaccinations set up in Billings. We must be clear in our messaging that vaccination policies are based on those of Riverstone Health. We also have some work to do in educating our students about vaccination so hopefully they make an informed and wise choice.

**UEC Agenda:**

Chancellor Hicswa announced that the next University Executive Council meeting will cover a more detailed budget update, a discussion on how to positivize the negative narrative about MSUB, and the challenge of renaming the UEC.

**Budget Update:**

Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Susan Simmers gave overview of schedule for fiscal year budget submission.

**Cabinet Meeting Schedule:**

Chancellor Hicswa asked the group to give her feedback on the duration and frequency of Cabinet meetings and how they can be the most effective use of time for group and for Chancellor.

Meeting concluded at 4:00 p.m.

Notes taken by Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor