



**Chancellor's Cabinet Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2021**

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

Guests: Incident Commander Dave Nordel and Provost Candidate Dr. Matthew Redinger

Meeting began at 2:00 pm

Dr. Matthew Redinger:

Cabinet spent the first part of the meeting interviewing Provost candidate finalist Dr. Matthew Redinger. He signed off at 2:245 pm.

Legislative Update:

There were not many developments to report from the Legislative session. University Communications and Marketing Director Maureen Brakke shared that HB112 was updated; this bill would require interscholastic athletes to compete under the sex assigned at birth. Both "free speech" bills HB218 and HB349 passed in the House. These would affect the types of clubs that can receive state funding. HB2, the budget appropriations bill is moving through the process with few changes.

Academic Senate Leadership Change:

Ending his tenure as Chair of Academic Senate, Dr. Jim Barron officially turned leadership over to Chair Elect Dr. Jennifer Lynn, and she assumed her duties as Chairperson.

COVID-19 Update:

Incident Commander Dave Nordel announced that the COVID-19 ICS Team is holding planning sessions Wednesday and Thursday to identify their objectives and prepare for summer and fall. Maureen Brakke will develop the communication strategy for any changes that are made.

Science Building:

Construction on the science building is still in progress; the building will need to be cleaned before IT equipment can be installed and calibrated.

Athletic Director Search:

Faculty Athletic Representative Dr. Tom Rust will chair the search committee for the new Athletic Director (AD). The goal is to have the right candidate hired by July 1st.

Board of Regents Update:

At the previous Board of Regents (BOR) meeting, we received approval for program proposals and permission to plan for the Center for Translational Medicine, our sonography program, and the Center

for Neurodiversity. These should not face any negative feedback at the upcoming BOR meeting May 26th-27th.

Soccer Field Signage:

Krista Montague explained that the signs on the fence at the City College soccer field have caused us to receive a citation for violation of city code. There is a historical precedent that allows MSUB to use the space despite the city code, but we may have to hold a public hearing.

Return to Work:

By May 10th, everyone should be back to work on campus, ending the COVID-19 related telework accommodations.

Montana Access Scholarship:

Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success Dr. Kim Hayworth announced that Montana is no longer providing the Montana Access Scholarship funding, which has previously helped some of the students who were most in need.

Commencement:

Chancellor Hicswa reminded the group that Commencement will be held Saturday May 1st, tickets are free but must be purchased online at the Metra Park website. Natalie has VIP parking passes if anyone on Cabinet would like one or knows someone who would benefit from front row parking.

Director Level Lunch and Learns:

Expanding the goal of increasing opportunities for professional development, Maureen Brakke is working on "Lunch and Learn" sessions that will be open to directors on campus.

Budget Update:

Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Susan Simmers addressed what MSUB can expect from the House Appropriations Bill. There is a \$1.6 million decrease for FY21 which is the base year, then a \$10.5 increase in year two (FY22). OCHE is working on the allocation schedules for this funding.

OCHE secured funding for MSUB's 1-2 Free Scholarship; we are waiting for tuition determinations to be made by the Board of Regents.

Cabinet Meeting Schedule:

Dr. Hicswa posed the question of how to best schedule Cabinet meetings though the summer. She asked for feedback on possibly meeting biweekly, or once monthly until the academic year begins.

Meeting concluded at 3:50 pm.

Minutes by Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor