



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY
BILLINGS

'Jacket Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023

Meeting began at 2:00 pm

Announcements-

Chancellor Hicswa received the question of whether the 'Jacket Leadership Team internal distribution list can be used by anyone on the team for communicating with the group. Dr. Hicswa encouraged everyone to make use of the distribution list to share information and resources.

'Jacket Mentors Program -

Retention Director Katie Moffatt announced that faculty and staff volunteer mentors are needed for first time college students at risk of not being retained for a second year. The student cohort was determined by the Department of Institutional Research who considered a number of risk factors that may affect the students. Volunteer mentors will be provided with a resource guide on how to assist students individually working toward the goal of improved retention rates overall.

Tik Tok Update-

Dr. Hicswa was recently in attendance at a state meeting during which Governor Gianforte's request for all state networks to cease use of the Tik Tok application was discussed. Director of Information Technology Brett Weisz reported that from what MSU Vice President of Information Technology Ryan Knutson stated, it is likely that the university system will be asked to follow the governor's directive regarding Tik Tok use. No official request has yet been made.

School House Rock "I'm Just a Bill"-

Dr. Hicswa showed the Schoolhouse Rock video "I'm Just a Bill" as a fun way to refresh the group on the steps of the legislative process in preparation for the legislative session.

Legislative Session Update-

Director of University Communications and Marketing Maureen Brakke gave of an overview based on reports she receives from MSU Government Affairs Director Janelle Booth regarding the ongoing legislative session. Among Montana University System (MUS) priorities for the current session are the present law adjustment and state employee

pay plan and building law revision. The MUS testified in support of these pieces of legislation. Dr. Hicswa added that there is proposed legislation to change the role of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) that is currently in committee. There is also a bill that would affect brewing licenses for universities who offer instruction in this industry. MSUB has one such program on moratorium.

Tuition and Fees-

Interim Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Leslie Weldon thanked Director of Business Services Barb Shafer for her work in organizing and preparing the fee request spreadsheets. Leslie reported that MSUB, in alignment with recommendations from OCHE, will request a 3% increase in mandatory fees to provide funding for increasing costs. New fees and increases to existing student fees are on the same request report that was approved by the Vice Chancellors and will be submitted. Discussion followed. 'JLT members expressed support for fee increases, commitment to keeping students informed, and providing adequate justification for fee increases.

'Jacket Giving Day Update-

Assistant Athletic Director for External Relations Nick Schmidt announced that his year's 'Jacket Giving Day will take place on May 23rd and 24th and will feature breakfast events for staff, faculty and donors. The two-day event is formatted to last for 1,927 minutes in honor of the university's founding year. Just under 30 projects were approved for fundraising as part of 'Jacket Giving Day. Foundation President and CEO Krista Montague announced that the new fundraising form is now available on the Business Services intranet page on the MSUB website.

Enrollment Update-

Director of Institutional Research Joann Stryker provided an overview of enrollment based on the recently completed census. There was a 176-student increase compared to fall-to-spring enrollment in 2022. There were increases in the number of undergraduate students, new non-traditional students, freshman and sophomores. There were decreases in the number of new graduate students, transfer students, juniors, and seniors. Base enrollment stayed relatively steady. Joann added that high school connections classes are registering earlier than previously due to a recent process change.

Orientation and Advising for Fall '23 Cohort –

Director of Admissions Ed Brown and Executive Director of New Student Services Julie Pettitt presented on how they have changed orientation days and advising to best serve students for the upcoming summer and fall. The Registrar and

Director of the Office of Academic Success (OAS), Dr. Cheri Johannes, added that they are making changes in professional advising in the OAS; each student is assigned a professional advisor and faculty advisor based on the program in which the student is enrolled.

Web-ex vs. Microsoft Teams Discussion-

Chief Information Officer, Brett Weisz, led a discussion on the benefits and cost savings of potentially replacing Web-Ex with Microsoft Teams as MSUB's primary audio/video conferencing platform. Discussion included some concerns voiced by faculty from the Center for Teaching and Learning who have experienced some issues when testing Teams. A faculty member expressed that if the change is implemented, there must be significant IT support, and it would be best to make the change at a time that is not coincidental with the pending LMS software change.

Meeting concluded at 3:30 pm.

Minutes taken by Natalie Preston