



**Chancellor's Cabinet Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2021**

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

Absent: Susan Simmers, Bill Kennedy, and Dr. Jim Barron

Guests: COVID Incident Commander David Nordel, Dr. Becky Lyons and Laura Gittings-Carlson

Meeting began at 2:00 pm.

Announcement:

Athletic Director Krista Montague announced that she will end her tenure as AD at the end of her current contract, June 30, 2021. This news will be announced throughout campus later Tuesday afternoon, and a press conference will be held at 4:00 pm Wednesday, March 31st.

Advising Strategy Team:

Dr. Becky Lyons and Laura Gittings-Carlson of Student Support Services/TRIO introduced a new initiative undertaken by a committee which they lead to define and unify what advising is at MSUB. The committee's initial goals are to address the student experience on campus holistically, and recognize and best utilize the fact that many departments and employees interact with students in an advising capacity.

COVID-19 Update:

Incident Commander Dave Nordel reported that positive COVID cases have increased in some areas of Montana and we all must continue to wear masks, physically distance, and everyone who is not yet vaccinated should make an appointment to receive the vaccine.

Legislative Update:

Director of University Communications and Marketing Maureen Brakke announced that the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is seeking feedback on the implementation of HB102 which allows firearms on college campuses in Montana. She forwarded the link and instructions for submitting feedback in a campus-wide communication. OCHE and the Board of Regents Academic Research and Student Affairs committee will host a public virtual listening session about HB102 implementation on May 12th.

Rocky Vista University:

Billings Clinic announced this week that they have ended their partnership with Rocky Vista University due to allegations of controversial comments made by an RVU executive. MSUB's stance remains neutral on this matter.

Departmental Updates:

Departmental updates were provided by some Cabinet members, those who have yet to speak will be added to the next Cabinet meeting agenda. Chief Information Officer Brett Weisz announced the

creation of a digital classroom in the new science building and the opportunities that creates for faculty and students. UCAM Director Maureen Brakke announced her department's upcoming focal shift toward marketing.

Meeting concluded at 3:00 pm¹.

Minutes by Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

¹ Today's meeting lasted only from 2:00 to 3:00 pm instead of the usual time from 2:00 to 4:00 pm due to an accreditation visit on campus at 3:00 pm.