



**University Executive Council Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021**

Meeting began at 2:00 pm via Web-ex, hosted by Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success Dr. Kim Hayworth due to Chancellor Hicswa's absence.

New Name for University Executive Council:

Vice Chancellor Hayworth announced that Chancellor Hicswa selected a new name for the group, and it is 'Jacket Leadership Team! Dr. Hicswa sends her thanks to everyone who submitted ideas to replace "University Executive Council".

City College SSI:

Director of Institutional Research Joann Stryker presented the results of the Student Satisfaction Survey distributed to City College students. Students responded to the survey during spring of 2020 (before the impact of COVID-19) and highlighted institutional effectiveness as the listed category that was most important to them. Intellectual growth was the most important sub-category. Respondents were most satisfied with the quality of academic services. Students identified financial aid access, class registration without conflict, and the quality of online class delivery as areas that need improvement. Ms. Stryker reminded the group that the data from the survey should serve as a starting point for areas that must be more fully explored in order to learn the reasoning or "bigger picture" that underlies trends in student responses.

HB 102 "Constitutional Carry" Law:

Interim Chief of Police Brandon Gatlin summarized the constitutional firearms carrying legislation. The law restricts the power of the Montana University System (MUS) to prohibit firearms carrying on campuses, but it allows for other restrictions based on factors such as students' behavior, events on campus with armed security, etc. This provides an opportunity for some control. Susan Simmers stated that due to these allowances, we will have regulatory work to do once implementation guidelines are developed. The use of the campus armory will also be strongly encouraged.

Groups across the MUS, including MTFCA and MUSFAR want to challenge the constitutionality of the law in court for its contradiction of the Montana Code Annotated which grants power to govern universities to the MUS. OCHE is accepting feedback via email at oche@montana.edu or during a virtual listening session to be held on May 12th. *See Appendix.* Discussion

COVID-19 Update:

Incident Commander Dave Nordel announced that while there have been more COVID-19 cases at MSUB since the last update, the processes of contact tracing and quarantining have mitigated the further spread of infections. He reminded the group that some students will need additional academic help to complete the semester due to illness with COVID-19. Mr. Nordel will also take questions on the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

Next 'Jacket Leadership Team Meeting:

Today is the last meeting of this group until August; exact date of next meeting will be announced later.

Closing Announcements and Additions to Teams:

Dr. Hayworth asked the group to share any announcements and introduce new employees from the departments.

Foundation President and CEO announced that Dyann Romeijn was promoted to Vice President of Development and Lauren Logan is Director of the Alumni Association. Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Dr. Susan Balter-Reitz announced that after the resignation of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dean Dr. Christine Shearer, Tami Haaland has agreed to serve one year as Interim Dean. Dr. Kim Hayworth introduced Shane Grantham as the new Director of the Military and Veterans' Success Center. Dr. Cheri Johannes reported that the three finalists in the Provost search will be on campus beginning next week and invited everyone to come to one or all of the forums.

Meeting concluded at 3:30.

Minutes by Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

Appendix:

On February 18, Governor Gianforte signed into law HB 102, which allows concealed carry and open carry in public places, including Montana University System (MUS) property. For our campuses, the law has an effective date of June 1, 2021.

Currently, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is beginning work on a system-wide policy to implement the provisions outlined in HB 102. This work is just getting underway, with current emphasis on a review of similar laws in other states and any corresponding campus policies. By early May a draft policy proposal will be developed, and a final policy proposal will be presented to the Board of Regents for approval at their May meeting (scheduled for May 26-27).

This law and policy will of course impact many within the Montana University System; while we have already received valuable insight and feedback from a wide variety of sources, both OCHE and the Board of Regents are hoping to hear even more in the coming weeks. There are two main ways to provide feedback:

- **In writing, by emailing us at oche@montana.edu.** All emails to this address are saved and read by those working on the draft policy, and will be made available to the Regents.
- **During a virtual listening session with the members of the Board of Regents Academic, Research, and Student Affairs (ARSA) Committee on Wednesday, May 12 from 3-5 p.m. via Zoom.** The public is invited to this session to listen, and/or to offer commentary and feedback. Further details about how to access and participate in the May 12 session will be made available at a later date.

Both methods of feedback are valuable to those who are working on an implementation policy, and to the Regents as they consider adoption of that policy.

Thank you for considering further engagement on this incredibly important matter. The Montana University System is strong and successful because of the dedication and engagement of our employees and students and we look forward to hearing from you as we move forward.



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