

The Chancellor's Cabinet advises the Chancellor by providing guidance and support for the university's highest priorities and governance processes.

In Attendance: Chancellor Stefani Hicswa, Lee Vartanian, Kim Hayworth, Leslie Weldon, Mike Bazemore, Dan Carter, Kathy Kotecki, Suzette Nynas, Kathleen Thatcher, Paula

Highlander, and Natalie Preston

Absent: Krista Montague

Did You Know?

American Indian students account for 8.8 percent of the Fall 2025 enrollment and has increased by 14 percent in the past five years.

SHOUT-OUTS

Paula Highlander, Director of Human Resources, shared that she attended MSUB Preview Day on October 30 as a parent. She expressed appreciation for the faculty, noting they were wonderful and engaging. Her son found a department of interest, and she highlighted the work of Julie's team, as well as messages shared by Chancellor Hicswa and Kim. She described it as a great day overall.

Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment and Accreditation, recognized the Staff Senate for organizing the successful Halloween "Spooktacular" event, noting it was a great community-building activity.

Leslie Weldon, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, gave a shout-out to her team for an excellent retreat, emphasizing the engaging and honest conversations that took place.

Dan Carter, Director of University Communications and Marketing, gave a shout-out to Mike Bazemore in Athletics for organizing the upcoming Tip-Off Classic this weekend.

Stefani Hicswa, Chancellor, recognized the Athletics team for the successful Halloween Athletic Auction, noting it was both a productive fundraiser and a positive event for donors and supporters of MSUB Athletics programs.

INFORMATION

Peer Institution Virtual Visit

Chancellor Hicswa reiterated the institutional goal of significantly improving student retention. She discussed outreach efforts with one of our identified peer institutions, Missouri Western State University, which has similar demographics but stronger retention and graduation outcomes. The Chancellor will meet with Missouri Western's president in December with the goal of organizing a virtual summit to exchange strategies.

Operational Plan Priority

In response to one of the goals of the Operational Plan. Cabinet members discussed their efforts to implement improved communication strategies.

Implementing Employee Development Programming

Cabinet members discussed the Operational Plan goal of improving onboarding and employee training, and developing mid-level leadership training opportunities. Chancellor Hicswa requested that Cabinet members consider how to implement employee development programming in their areas and report back at the November 18 meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Cabinet members decided to cancel the December 2 meeting. Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, will send out an email requesting shout-outs and updates in lieu of the December 2 meeting. The December 16 meeting will instead be a holiday gathering at the Chancellor's residence. December 24-January 2 will be free of meetings. Chancellor Hicswa also encouraged staff to take vacation time around the holidays.

DISCUSSION

Campus Housing Tour (3:00 p.m.)

Cabinet members toured the residence hall facilities, led by Codie Wahrman, Associate Dean of Student Engagement, and viewed current and future improvement projects to enhance the residential experience for students. The MSUB Foundation staff will also participate in a tour on November 17 to identify potential donor opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Holiday Lighting Ceremony will be on Thursday, December 4 at 5:00 p.m. on the south steps of the administration building.

The campus holiday party will be on December 11 from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Glacier Room.

Vice Chancellor Weldon announced that the farewell party for Brett Weisz will be on Thursday, November 13 at 3:00 in the Big Sky room in the Student Union Building.

UPDATES (Reprinted as submitted)

Mike Bazemore, Athletic Director

- D2 CCA Tip-Off Tournament (11/7 9)
 - Men's Basketball vs. NMHU (11/7) @ 1pm, vs. Central MO (11/8) @ 1pm, vs. NE Kerney (11/9) @ 1pm
 - Women's Basketball vs. UMary (11/7) @ 7:30pm, vs. CO Pueblo (11/8) @ 5:30pm, vs. CO Mines (11/9) @ 7:30pm

Women's Soccer vs. SPU (11/6) @ 2pm

Krista Montague, MSUB Foundation and Alumni CEO

I am sorry to miss Cabinet again this week, I am traveling to visit donors in Bozeman and Missoula. Fundraising to date for FY26 is \$631,469. We have multi-year pledges coming in for Next is Now as well. We had two really great alumni events last week, one in Great Falls and one in Helena. The owners of the Sip 'n Dip in Great Falls are MSUB grads – if you are ever there, please say hi: Wayne & Sandra Thares. Both had great experiences at MSUB and have lots of stories to tell. We left a "MSUB Alumni owned business" sticker with them so hope to see them hang it in a window. Alumni Businesses - Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni.

The annual Celebration of Scholarship is set for November 18th at 5pm in the Glacier Room. We have 14 rsvp's so far including donors planning to attend to hear about the impact their philanthropy is making and a chance to connect with students if possible. Three students have expressed interest in speaking at the event. Cabinet members are welcome to join us. You can RSVP: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=87b49a4b-7d7d-420f-a0fd-3bc8943fb9e2&envId=p-fiZbJwO-k2sPpvMg3RWZg&zone=usa

Jackets Connect, our new alumni engagement platform, is up and running as well, please check it out: <u>Home | Jackets Connect</u>

Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

The annual <u>Billings Gazette 40 Under Forty contest</u> is open to find this year's 40 outstanding people under the age of 40 who are making positive contributions to the business environment of the greater Billings. Vote for our MSUB nominees: Codie Wahrman, Associate Dean of Student Engagement, Katie Moffat, Retention Director, and Luca Battistotti, Director of Marketing and Alumni Relations for the MSUB Foundation and Alumni. The honorees chosen will be profiled in February 2026. Nominations will be open October 6 through November 9, 2025.

Kathy Kotecki, Dean of Student Engagement

Thriving Together Prevention Education: All new undergraduate and graduate students are required to complete this training (required the first semester they are here). This is a new training OCHE spearheaded and is being offered through Canvas (previously offered through Everfi and Vector). Due to some technical issues and settings within Canvas, students believed

they had completed the training when they did not complete the final assessment, which put a registration hold on their account. Our SHS team worked closely with the CTL team to get this resolved this week and communication went out to students identifying the issues and asking them to complete the final assessment, which will trigger the hold being lifted to allow them to register for spring classes.

Registration Rodeo: November 20th from 6-9 pm in the Glacier Room. This event is a collaboration between Housing, CFE, Advising and Retention to create fun and excitement for students to make appointments to register for spring classes, to confirm their Spring housing, to ensure they are signed up with Navigate and to take care of any other important business to get them ready for spring semester while also having the opportunity to have some fun. You are all welcome to come and ride the mechanical bull!!