



Chancellor's Cabinet Meeting Minutes January 6, 2026, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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, Dan Carter, Kathy Kotecki, Paula Highlander, Kathleen Thatcher, Leslie Weldon, Lee Vartanian, Suzette Nynas, Kim Hayworth, Krista Montague, and Natalie Preston

Absent: Mike Bazemore

WORD FOR 2026

Chancellor Hicswa shared that at the beginning of each new year, she sets an intention for the year through a single word. Cabinet members each shared their word for the year ahead.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Cabinet members reviewed and updated the FY26 Operational Plan.

DISCUSSION

Cybersecurity Training

Cabinet members discussed annual required cybersecurity training. Users who have not completed the training lose access to campus systems. Discussion followed on communication of requirements and deadlines. Cabinet members agreed to grant an extension to January 20. Lee Vartanian, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Suzette Nynas, Chair of Academic Senate, will be responsible for communicating the deadline to faculty, and Leslie Weldon, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, will work with the IT Department to communicate to staff.

INFORMATION

“One Big Beautiful Bill” Financial Aid Changes

Kim Hayworth, Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success, provided an overview of H.R.1 — 119th Congress (2025-2026), known as One Big Beautiful Bill, and how it is expected to impact Financial Aid. All changes will go into effect on July 1, 2026. Students will need counseling from Financial Aid and academic advisors to understand how to maintain Pell eligibility.

Strategic Planning

Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment and Accreditation, updated the group on the strategic planning process. Karen Miller and her team at Kaleidoscope Group will host in-person sessions in conjunction with regularly scheduled Cabinet and 'Jacket Leadership Team meetings and open sessions for all employees in the upcoming weeks. She will also offer community sessions that MSUB employees are welcome to attend.

POLICY

Commemorative Tributes Policy

Cabinet members reviewed and discussed the policy draft based on the recommendation from Gonser Gerber to update this campus policy that guides the Foundation. The draft will be presented for first reading at the January 13, 2026, 'Jacket Leadership Team meeting.

UPDATES (Reprinted as submitted)

Kathy Kotecki, Dean of Student Engagement

The Center for Engagement staff has planned two weeks of activities for students upon their return for the spring semester. The theme is "*The Power of Getting Involved, Leave Your Legacy.*" I will pass along the schedule of events once it is finalized.

Martin Luther King Ceremony: Monday, January 19th (see attached flier)
RA staff return for training on Monday, January 5th. We have hired three new RAs to replace those who are not returning for the Spring.

Active Shooter & Safety Resources training will go live Friday, January 9th – communication will go out to all campus employees the week of January 5th.

Dan Carter, Director of University Communications and Marketing

2025 by the numbers from the Office of Communications & Marketing:

3 - Number of new wayfinding signs that UCAM assisted with completion and installation.

5 - Number of new [YouTube short "mic'd up" videos](#) completed during the year. Available for viewing and sharing.

6 - Number of ["Feel the Sting" videos](#) completed during the year to profile various MSUB staff on their areas of expertise. Available for viewing and sharing.

12 - Number of consecutive months that saw increases in social media engagement.

56 - Number of signs, stickers, and other assets found to out-of-date logos on them after comprehensive review in November. Will build plan in 1Q26 to address the issue.

63 - Number of media releases completed and submitted.

150 - Number of Shared Governance cards printed for distribution. (Kathy Kotecki can hook you up!)

164 - Percentage increase in Instagram views in Fall Semester 2025 over Fall Semester 2024.

296 - Number of reactions on Facebook to the move-in day post showing Vice Chancellor Hayworth pushing Chancellor Hicswa in a shopping cart.

1,927 - Number of times this past year that I have mentioned the upcoming Centennial to family members, neighbors, friends and community members.

Kim Hayworth, Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success

Spring New Student Orientation will be held in the Glacier Room on Friday, January 9th from 1-4 pm. Admissions is sponsoring an information tabling fair for new students. Please contact Admissions if you would like to reserve a table. Tours of University Campus and City College Campus available on January 9th as well.