

MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY
BILLINGS
Chancellor's Cabinet Memorandum
September 15, 2026

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

UPDATES

Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

Next Thursday, September 24, MSU Billings will host the Board of Regents Meeting in the Glacier Room. Wear yellow and blue or MSUB gear on Wednesday and Thursday and be ready to show your Yellowjacket pride as we welcome important guests to campus. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend if possible and can register at [this link](#).

Krista Montague, MSUB Foundation and Alumni CEO

Our first board of directors meeting of the year is September 17th. Please find the current board chart attached for your information.

The 2nd Annual Chancellor's Community Breakfast, sponsored by Intermountain Health, is in the Glacier Room on September 17th at 7:30am. We are expecting up to 100 community members, donors, alumni, etc. to come hear the Chancellor's "state of the university" to the broader public. Please feel free to attend and rsvp here: [Montana State University Billings: Chancellor's Community Breakfast : GiveCampus](#)

On September 22, the Foundation will host a luncheon for donors who have supported the Sculpture & Ceramic Studio project. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the project architects from Mosaic and Hacker, learn about next steps, and receive a special update on the project's progress. The event will also help engage these early champions in sharing the vision and encouraging others to consider supporting this transformational initiative.

The Chancellor's Circle Reception will be held on September 30 at Hilands. This event recognizes and thanks donors who contributed \$1,000 or more during the

previous academic year and celebrates the impact their generosity has on MSUB students and programs.

Dan Carter, Director of University Communications and Marketing

We will be using social media and radio more and more this fall as a tool to highlight students, university events, and push retention. A lot of our efforts will be around student profiles. I will be reaching out to different departments for profile suggestions. We'll be highlighting all the ways that our students are uncommonly connected in the community and how they are finding the magic that happens here. As Lisa Blomquist recently pointed out: *"This university has fulfilled that emptiness and spot that was missing the magic that happens when you find your passion. And I think I found it."*

Speaking of social media, we have more than a dozen social media account that are not active. Some of them went dark in 2020 and never came back. I will work with those who have those approved accounts to get them either updated or deleted. I will seek to have the project done by December.

We have not had a definite ETA on website migration. Until then, we will be encouraging those who manage web pages to do some deep cleaning to rid their sites of unnecessary PDFs.

Work on building awareness for accessibility standards will continue. The working group will meet in October to review communications on next steps.

Kim Hayworth, Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success

MSUB TRIO Programs:

MSUB TRIO Programs received good news and bads news over the last two weeks. The good news is that the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) program received notice of funding for an additional five years. EOC is a FREE program that provides counseling to help people achieve educational, career, and financial goals. The EOC helps over 800 individuals in 19 Montana counties start achieving their goals each year by helping them find and attend colleges, start on new careers, gain their HiSet or GED, and much more.

The disappointing news is that MSUB's Talent Search program was not approved to continue. Talent Search programs focus on preparing high school and middle school students to finish high school as well as to explore college and careers.

Executive Director of TRIO Programs, Laura Gittings-Carlson is working within the remaining four TRIO programs, specifically EOC, to redeploy staff to continue service to BPS, Lockwood, and Hardin. Unfortunately, schools such as Laurel, Shepherd, and Huntley Project will no longer have the regular presence of Talent Search team members although TRIO Programs will continue to offer special programs such as College is Possible and FAFSA Workshops.

Welcome Week & Fall Kick-Off:

Many thanks to everyone who attended or participated in the 2026 Welcome Week events. Move-In Day on Sunday, September 6th went great with many student-athletes making a great impression on our new students and families. Fall Kick-Off was our largest yet with about 110 tables set-up across campus. We appreciate campus involvement to provide such a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere for all students.

Faculty Workshops:

SAS hosted four 45-minute workshops designed to introduce faculty to expanded access to student accommodation information through Accommodate platform. Director of Disability Support Services, Tracy McLuskie, is already receiving feedback that the expanded access is helpful for faculty. Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Justin Beach presented an overview of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act changes specifically related to student courseload. Faculty attendance and engagement in the workshops was outstanding.

Yellowjacket Excellence Scholarship (YES):

Due to an anticipated directive from the MT Board of Regents and Commissioner Christian, MSUB is exploring options to retain the YES. With analysis from Encoura, MSUB's new enrollment partner, reduced awards, changes in GPA tiers, and non-resident awards are being considered. More to come in the next few weeks.

College and Career Fair:

On Tuesday, September 22, 2026, MSUB will once again host the largest college and career fair in Montana. The event will be held in the Alterowitz Gym and the Glacier Room.

Kathy Kotecki, Dean of Student Engagement

University Police:

Officer Edward Stafford resigned from his position (he was one of our new hires) as he will be moving to AZ with his family. We will begin a search soon for a new officer.

Housing:

Occupancy

Current occupancy is 385 – last year at this time we had 349

We have 255 total residents living in Petro (last fall we had 230)

We have 130 total residents living in Rimrock (last fall we had 119)

Welcome Week:

Thank you to all of you and your teams for your engagement in Welcome Week. We had a great week of programs and events to kick start the semester and truly appreciate your participation and support.

The next Chancellor's Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6.

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