

Please share all information from today's meeting with the stakeholder group you represent.

INFORMATION

Chancellor Hicswa announced that the Faculty Excellence Awards are on February 25, 2025. Please RSVP using the link in the digital invitation or by contacting Sierra Dolezal in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Chancellor Hicswa requested feedback on meeting-free days.

Chancellor Hicswa thanked Jana Marcette, Interim Director of Strategic Academic Initiatives, and Suzette Nynas, Academic Senate Chair, for co-chairing the steering committee working on the rollout of First Day Complete. Chancellor Hicswa accepted the committee's recommendation to cancel the First Day Complete contract, continue using the system currently in place for course material delivery, and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for course material programs going forward.

Chancellor Hicswa announced that three members of the MSU Billings staff/faculty were selected by the Billings Gazette's "40 Under Forty" awards: Jacob Pancheau, Director of the MSU Billings ROTC Program; Dillon Deffinbaugh, Director of the Center for Engagement; and Dr. Jessie Perius, Assistant Professor of Business Administration. She was pleased to see several MSU Billings alumni honored on the list as well.

Chancellor Hicswa reminded the team that everyone has the right to contact their state and congressional representatives. However, as state employees, it is inappropriate to use university-provided devices or time to advocate. Employes who wish to take that step, should do so as private citizens.

Executive Orders Update – Dan Carter

Dan Carter, Director of University Communications and Marketing, provided an update on the recent orders issued by the oval office. The Commissioner's Office (OCHE) will provide guidance for the university system. Faculty and staff should remain focused on serving students, and keep telling stories of great work being done at MSUB.

Provost Search Update – Cheri Johannes

Cheri Johannes, search committee chair, asked everyone to please submit their feedback on the four Provost candidates by this Friday. She thanked everyone for their participation in this important search process.

Canvas Update – Andrea Aebersold and Sue Balter-Rietz

Andrea Aebersold, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, provided an update on the transition from D2L to Canvas. Faculty will begin teaching in Canvas in Summer 2025. Most courses have been migrated, and weekly faculty training sessions are going well.

Sue Balter Rietz, Professor of Communication and OCHE Director of Online Initiatives, shared that classes are transitioning smoothly, although adjustments are needed due to differences between D2L and Canvas. The migration has been successful with minimal changes required. Communication with students will be the next important area of focus for the team. Collaboration with the MSU Data Governance Council is ongoing to ensure all provisions are met. Positive feedback has been received from ASMSUB. Unlike D2L, staff will have access to Canvas. Further announcements will be shared in the fall.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Old MacDonald Had a Farm, E-I-E (-I-O) – Kathleen Thatcher

Kathleen provided an overview of the accreditation cycle and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) Year 7 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE) Report and the visit that we are approaching, October 8-10, 2025. MSU Billings is currently awaiting feedback from the NWCCU Year 6 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR) report, focused on Standard 2. Feedback will include any findings that need to be addressed in the NWCCU Year 7 EIE report, which is focused on Standard 1: Institutional Effectiveness, Teaching, and Learning. The Year 7 EIE visit may include recommendations and findings from either standard.

Individuals had time to reflect and brainstorm ideas and evidence in response to select 1.B. topics from each standard. Responses were submitted in writing to Kathleen Thatcher for the Year 7 EIE report which is due on August 1, 2025.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS (reprinted as submitted)

Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

Legislative update: Week Four

HB 13, the state employee pay plan, cleared the House and is now in the Senate where a hearing has not yet been scheduled. Proposed changes are to:

- increase the base pay of each employee by \$1 an hour or by 2.5%, whichever is greater, each year of the 2027 biennium:
- provide for travel reimbursement at 70% of the standard federal reimbursement rate; and
- increase employer contribution benefits by \$26 a month the first year of the biennium and \$53 the second year.

The Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee heard SB 210 on Thursday. The bill, sponsored by Sen. John Fuller (R-Kalispell), strikes statutory language requiring appointment of a student regent to the BOR. Student organizations testified in opposition of the bill. OCHE took no position, appearing as an informational witness. The committee has not yet acted on the bill.

HB 300, sponsored by Rep. Seekins-Crow, would make it an unlawful discriminatory practice "for an educational institution to allow a male person to participate in athletic programs designated for female persons." The House Judiciary Committee heard the bill Friday morning. OCHE was among the opponents with testimony that enactment of the bill would force the MUS out of compliance with NCAA policy. The committee is expected take action on HB 300 this week.

HB 284, sponsored by Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R-Belgrade), proposes to create an interim committee to "investigate civil rights violations and acts of censorship committed by the Montana University System." A hearing is scheduled for the House Judiciary Committee on February 13.

Jerry Girard, Director of Student Health Services

The big news at SHS is that we hired a new Operations Manager. We are very fortunate that Lisa Shirk found her way to us. She has a background in physical therapy and has several years of healthcare leadership experience. Student usage for both medical and counseling services has been robust as expected. Because of increased demand for medical services, we have increased primary care hours to include more appointment and walk-in availability in the afternoon hours. This semester we have welcomed our newest clinical counseling intern, Jessica Gagakuma to the team. As with all of our mental health grad students, Jessica is currently in the

MSUB Masters of Mental Health Counseling program and is expected to be with us through the Fall '25 semester. Three of our staff, Wellness Coordinator Sydney Norwood, Counseling Director Kelsey Osmond, and RN Grette Treat recently attended the NASPA Strategies conference in Boston where they attended three days of top-shelf professional development.

The next Mental Health First Aid training on campus will be March 4 & 5, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm both days with location TBA.

Eileen Wright, Library Director

The library was able to bring back the popular database The Teaching Channel; 2,000+ videos showcasing current techniques and modeling best teaching practices. It is now live and ready to be used.

Sensory Bins have been created for the children/YA area. These bins have toys and manipulatives allowing for the child to engage with their senses and play while their parent reads the corresponding book to them. So far we have bins themed around the alphabet, farms, circus animals, the ocean, and digging for fossils. We're very excited to see how the bins are received and hope to make new ones throughout the year!

Dillon Deffinbaugh, Director of the Center for Engagement

Join us for <u>Power of One Week</u> on February 10-14! Encourage students and staff to spread the word; friends and family are also welcome. This programming series will highlight the power that each of us has to impact our communities and improve ourselves and the world around us.

Check out the new <u>CFE intranet page</u> today for helpful resources, including a new EMS training video, Master Calendar tips, student involvement details, event planning tools, and more!

Codie Wahrman, Associate Dean of Students

We are currently accepting applications for RAs – Know anyone that would make a great candidate please encourage them to apply ©

We have opened the Housing Application for next fall and already have 100 students applying for housing. If you have students looking for a place to live, study, and thrive please encourage them to apply to live on campus through the housing portal on our website!

The Housing and Residence life team is excited to offer our new loyalty program – The longer you stay the more you save!

2nd year students receive a 5% discount

3rd year students receive a 7.5% discount

4th+ year students receive a 10% discount

THAT'S 22.5% OF TOTAL SAVINGS over 4 years!

The Residence Halls will have new washing machines and dryers on the 18th of February and laundry will now be free for our students that live on campus!!

Sunny Day Real Bird, Director of American Indian Outreach

All are invited to Elder Engagement and Cultural Learning: Professional Development Presentation for Faculty and Staff.

Krista Montague, Foundation and Alumni President

The Inaugural Chancellors Circle reception will be held on February 19. This giving society honors and thanks our donors who gave \$1000 or more in the previous fiscal year. We are excited have 67 total RSVPs so far for this inaugural event. We are planning a Helena Alumni event for the evening of March 12 at Dorthy's Lounge (connected to the Windbag Saloon). Please help us spread the word to any Helena area alumni you know! Just a reminder we are welcoming volunteers for the 2025 MSUB Wine & Food Festival. Opportunities can be found here: MSUB Foundation & Alumni

Sue Balter-Rietz and Andrea Aebersold, Canvas Transition Updates

MSUB will be using Canvas beginning Summer 2025. Quite a bit of work has already been accomplished by the CTL team and the Advisory Committee. We are currently focusing on preparing faculty and students for the transition.

During Spring 2025, the CTL is hosting weekly workshops on teaching with Canvas. All Faculty have been enrolled in a self-paced course that allows them to learn the features of Canvas at their own pace. Course materials are in the process of being migrated from D2L to Canvas (most courses taught over the last three years will be moved). Student data, including gradebooks and assignments will also be archived. Current plans are to start communicating the transition to students beginning with summer registration. A number of communication strategies are being planned to ensure students know about the move. There will also be training available for students.