

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

Did You Know?

Fall 2017 first-time, full-time cohort bachelor's degree attainment is 30%.

Information:

NWCCU Policies, Regulations, Financial Review (PRFR) Response

Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment and Accreditation, reported that MSU Billings received the official response to the Year Six Policies, Regulations, Financial Review (PRFR). Not only did the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities not issue any findings, but the previous finding to stabilize leadership was approved as fulfilled. The Commission cited Chancellor Hicswa's leadership and the hiring of more than 25 full-time tenure-track faculty members in recent years.

State and Federal Update

Dan Carter, Director of University Communications and Marketing, acknowledged the anxiety experienced by some faculty, staff, and students due to news from the federal government. He urged everyone to remain focused on student success. Dan provided a brief overview of the status of the Montana Legislative Session. An update is printed in the updates section by Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor.

FY 25 Budget Update

Heather Hanna, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Finance, reported that there is an expected general fund deficit of \$419,000 for the current fiscal year. The majority of this is attributed to a decline in graduate student enrollment. Her team has adjusted the budget model for this decline and tuition increases approved in September by the Board of Regents. With about four months left in the fiscal year, and factoring in projected revenue and vacancy savings, she expects to deposit about \$280,000 into budgetary reserves.

Policy Committee

Jana Marcette, Interim Director of Strategic Academic Initiatives, announced that there is a Policy Sub-Committee of 'Jacket Leadership Team members who volunteered to serve in this role. The members are Paul Foster, Director of the Office of International Studies; Dillon Deffinbaugh, Director of the Center for

Engagement; Cara Virostko, Chair of Staff Senate; Paula Highlander, Director of Human Resources; Kurt Toenjes, Dean of the College of Health Professions and Science; Craig McKenzie, Instructor and Department Chair of Computer Systems Technology; and Jana Marcette.

Policy Directory

Jana Marcette reported that a new format for a centralized Policy Directory has been created and an <u>example</u> is being piloted on the Human Resources web page. Many stakeholder groups across campus had input in developing the format for the directory. Jana requested feedback. (See addendum)

Policy:

Unallowable Expenditures

Jana Marcette presented the most recent version of the policy on unallowable expenditures. Discussion followed related to gift allowances. Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment and Accreditation, made a motion to return the policy draft to the Chancellor's Cabinet so that group can determine the policy language for small gifts. Austin Bennett, Director of University Honors Program and Instructor, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Presentation:

NWCCU Standards 1.D.2., 1.D.3., and 1.D.4

Kathleen Thatcher and Joann Stryker presented on the standards specifically related to student achievement as issued by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) who provide MSU Billings' institutional accreditation. Kathleen summarized that the standards require universities to identify regional and national peer institutions, capture and compare institutional data to peer institutions, and post the data (disaggregated by specific factors) and comparisons publicly.

Table Discussion and Reports:

Student Achievement at MSUB

Kathleen and Joann assigned table groups to complete a worksheet activity analyzing either <u>College Scorecard</u>, <u>IPEDs</u>, <u>Student Achievement Data</u>, or, <u>Internal Reports and Measurements</u>. Kathleen and Joann then led discussion about surprises found in data, and on how data can be used effectively. They encouraged the group to share the <u>Student Achievement webpage</u> with their teams, particularly the section on peer and aspirant data.

Updates/Announcements (reprinted as submitted)

Amber West Martin, Director of the Academic Support Center

The Academic Support Centers at UC and CC will be hosting our annual Pie Contest on Pi Day, 3-14, 11 AM – 1 PM! Stop by the UC or CC ASC to sign up to enter a pie. Everyone is invited to sign up to enter a pie and/or come by to taste and vote.

Dillon Deffinbaugh, Director of the Center for Engagement

Please encourage your teams to nominate deserving students for the 2025 Student Leadership Excellence Awards!

- Nomination Form & Award Criteria linked here.
- Nominations due March 17 at 5:00 p.m.
- Contact me if you are interested in serving on the Nomination Review Committee.

Brett Weisz, Chief Information Officer/Director of Information Technology

McMullen 305 had its technology upgraded over spring break.

The four MSU campuses have been experiencing email delivery issues to @gmail.com addresses. We're continuing to troubleshoot and evaluate options. Please report any deliverability issues to Brett Weisz.

Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

The Legislative Session is halfway to completing the 90-day session. As of Friday, March 7, HB 5 has a hearing in House Appropriations scheduled for March 17. The Legislature is now on a scheduled transmittal break and will meet again March 14.

Other bills being followed:

HR 2

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to hold its hearings between March 19-21.

HB 10

On Thursday, February 27, House Appropriations approved HB 10 (Long-range information technology appropriations) on a 21-2 vote.

HB 13

On Tuesday, February 25, the Senate Finance and Claims Committee concurred in HB 13 (the state employee pay plan) on a 14-8 vote.

Codie Wahrman, Associate Dean of Students

We have 200 students signed up for a residence hall room for next fall – we appreciate your continued support in getting students to sign up to take part in living and learning on campus!

We are continuing our marketing of choosing your home with T-shirts for students that sign up for a room and for our Residence Life Staff to promote signing up to live on campus.

Each floor in the Residence Halls has had new washers and dryers installed that are free to use for our residents.

Housing and Residence life will be partnering with Advising and Retention for a large-scale program in April to support and encourage students to sign up for housing, register for classes, and register for Navigate.

Jerry Girard, Director of Student Health Services

During the month of February we launched preparation for our upcoming Fall '25 AAAHC Accreditation survey. We are looking forward to working collaboratively with Hannah and Kathleen in Accreditation and

Assessment to prep for another successful audit. Our sixth semester of Equine Therapy is up and running. Continuing our partnership with Horses Spirits Healing and Riverstone Health, four students are currently participating in the eight-week trauma recovery program. Four may not sound like many but the max group size is five and this is the largest group ever. Our counseling team will also be launching their second semester of their therapeutic support group called "Let's Talk." This group is open to all students and takes place each Thursday evening at 7:00 in the Diversity and Wellness Center starting next Thursday the 13th. Speaking of our counseling team, a reminder to everybody, that Kelsey and Calli are available for "Safe Zone" and "QPR Gatekeeper" trainings as requested. SHS will be sponsoring a Vitalant blood drive on the University Campus on March 18th. Be on the lookout for the Vitalant bloodmobile parked in the horseshoe between McMullen and Petro on Tuesday the 18th. As always, Sydney Norwood has been leading a variety of student wellness activities and she has also worked tirelessly to bring the "What You Were Wearing" sexual assault prevention display to City College during the month of April. Thanks to all of you for making MSU Billings such a cool place to be!

Addendum 1

Policy Directory 3-11-25 Summary

The policy directory working group (Cara, Dan, Greg, Hannah, Jana, Kathleen, Steve) reviewed our current policy directory and unit-level web pages in January and February 2025 and developed a directory template and recommendations with the following considerations:

- Accessibility review of current template/test page: the proposed formatting can be read by multiple screen-readers, and the working group believes that it meets accessibility needs.
- All University (JLT) policies will be housed in the directory.
- Accompanying procedures and forms documents will be linked in the directory.
- The form column is customizable for each unit's page. e.g. Multiple forms can be included in the space if needed, if a unit doesn't have any forms, the forms column doesn't need to be present.

Current Feedback:

- Academic policies which are contained within the academic catalog(s) do not fit well into this format.
- I like the example format (vs. current unit pages), but I'm fine with either.
- Overall formatting looks nice, my brain would prefer that the table borders (for procedures & forms) were aligned.
- I think the directory is laid out well and will be a wonderful asset to our community.

Please send any additional feedback to <u>jana.marcette@msubillings.edu</u> by Monday March 24th, 2025.

Test Site/Template for policy directory at the unit-level:

https://www.msubillings.edu/ucam/untitled.htm