Bitterroot College Advisory Council Meeting
Director’s Report / Victoria Clark
Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Related Supplemental Materials:
1. BC Enrollment Update – Fall 2014
2. BC Fall 2014 Continuing Education Schedule

Communications & Comments:

1. The UM and Missoula College Faculty Association negotiated a new Collective Bargaining Agreement for Fiscal Year 2015, resulting in a new calculation method for the payment of 2-year unit adjuncts. Previously Missoula College (and therefore Bitterroot College) adjuncts were paid at an academic year (10 month) base rate of $26,187, with one adjunct faculty FTE equaling 40 credits taught per academic year. The new agreement leaves the base rate at $26,187 but reduces the fulltime credit load to 36 credits. For FY2016, the fulltime credit load will be further reduced to 30 credits, which will then put 2-year unit adjunct pay at the same base rate and fulltime credit load as University of Montana adjunct faculty.

2. The UM Provost Office increased the Bitterroot College General Fund award by $90,000 for Fiscal Year 2015. Money will be used to fully fund the new Advising and Enrollment Services Assistant position (Darlene Reese) and the new Learning and Testing Center Coordinator position (not yet filled; see Item 5). Remaining funds will be used to offset the salary adjustment awarded to 2-year unit adjuncts for FY2015 (see Item 1).

3. Fall 2014 college enrollment – these numbers will be available on Wednesday, September 15.

4. Continuing education: Workforce Training Programs – 10 CNA students started September 13 (Ryan Foundation provided six full scholarships); three CDL students started October 6 (next CDL starts November 12); 19 Phlebotomy students are registered for October 24 & 25 course; Other Continuing Education: Word and Excel courses filled at Darby Library in September and early October, Entrepreneurship/Small Business courses (via RCEDA) are on-going through November – enrollment in these courses has been solid.

5. New website was launched in early September. It is still a work in progress in terms of various images and interactivity, but the new look is cleaner than the old look and navigation has been streamlined. Online registration and fee payment is now available for Continuing Education courses.

6. Bitterroot College is waiting final approval of its role description from UM Human Resources Services regarding its new Learning and Testing Center Coordinator position (three-quarter time, Academic Year). Recruitment should open the week of October 20.

7. Strengthening Workforce Alignment in Montana’s Manufacturing and Energy Industries (SWAMMEI) Grant: Ryan Smith was identified as the Bitterroot College (BC) welding instructor for fall 2014 and spring 2015; Smith has a cohort of 11 BC welding students who he instructs at the Hamilton High School welding facility five evenings a week; Smith was also hired by the Hamilton School District to teach early afternoon welding classes to Hamilton High School students; the BC Commercial Driver License (CDL) program has expanded and hired a second instructor (Wayne Koch) and purchased a second tractor using SWAMMEI funds; the additional instructor and second truck will enable the BC CDL program to lessen the student disconnect between CDL classroom time and CDL driving time, allowing students to progress more quickly through the BC CDL program; additionally, the BC CDL program will be starting a mobile school, with the first outreach school likely to be in Butte in early spring 2015.

8. Montana HealthCARE – On October 1, Montana was awarded $15 million for its Round 4 TAACCCT Grant submission; Missoula College is the grant’s lead unit; the Bitterroot College will receive about $160,000
over the next three years to fund a Healthcare Transformation Specialist to serve as a liaison to the overall Montana HealthCARE initiative.

9. The Bitterroot College (BC) is sending Workforce Programs Coordinator Roch Turner to the National Career Pathways Network (NCPN) Conference in Orlando the week of October 12 and then to the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) Conference in Chicago the week of October 26. In November, BC Advising and Enrollment Services Coordinator Kathleen O’Leary will be part of the Montana University System delegation in Chicago for the annual Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) Conference. O’Leary’s interest in the CAEL Conference relates to her work on the state-level Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Task Force.

10. The Bitterroot College (BC) will be submitting a substantive change report to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) describing its transition to offering more than 50% of an academic program. The report is due to NWCCU the first week of November. The BC Director will be working with new UM Associate Provost Nathan Lindsay to complete the report.

11. Bitterroot College Director continues to explore NSF Grant and NEH Grant opportunities to assist with science and humanities capacity building; objective is to identify one or two grants with money available starting fall 2015 for full-time science and humanities faculty; exploration of TRiO grant options to assist with the provision of student support services is ongoing.