Bitterroot College
University of Montana
Minutes of the Advisory Council

Meeting Location: Classroom 116, Bitterroot College, 103 South 9th Street, Hamilton
Meeting Time and Date: 3:00 PM, Wednesday, January 20, 2016
Chair: Dixie Stark
Vice Chair: Terry Berkhouse

1) Call to Order and Roll Call
   a) Reminder to Council Members to Declare any Conflict of Interest (per Bitterroot College Advisory Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 1) as May Arise during the Course of the Meeting
   b) Advisory Council members present: Pat Connell, Terry Berkhouse, Tim Johnson, Roger Maclean, Jaime Middleton, Deb Morris, Bob Nichols, and Dixie Stark
   c) Advisory Council members absent: Perry Brown, Penny Jakes, and Nancy Valk
   d) BC staff present: Victoria Clark (Director), Kate Johnson (AmeriCorps VISTA for BC), and Patty Skinner (Operations Manager; taking notes)
   e) Members of the public present: Elena Garrison (BC faculty), Calleen Callahan (BC student), Sheila McGuiness (BC student), Mike McGuiness (community member), Candy Lubansky (community member), Patrick Pickens (community member), and Wendy Fawns (community member, home school advocate)

Discussion Summary: None.

2) Introductions
   Discussion Summary: None.

3) Announcements and Documents Received
   Discussion Summary: Community member Wendy Fawns announced that a scholarship information meeting was being held at the MAPS facility on January 30, 2016.

4) Public Comment
   Discussion Summary: None.

5) Action Items
   a) Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 2015
      Discussion Summary: The November 2015 meeting minutes were amended to show that Provost Perry Brown had been in attendance at the November 2015 meeting. With this amendment, the minutes were approved unanimously.

6) Information Items
   a) Director’s Report – see supplemental materials
      i) Questions on Director’s Report
   b) Director’s Topic
      i) New BC Recruitment Team
      Discussion Summary: Council members were concerned by UM Health Services’ decision to back track on the Mental Health Specialist position at the Bitterroot College. Council members wanted to understand more about the Health Services fee which was being charged Bitterroot College students but for which they gained no access to local services (unlike the case with Missoula students for whom the Health Services fee is put toward locally accessible services provided by Curry Health Center). Director Clark expressed frustration with the present situation. Vice Chair Terry Berkhouse and Council member Deb Morris suggested some ideas for working around the problem (i.e., partnering with the UM Psychology Department to have graduate student interns provide mental health services). Clark generally rejected these ideas as she believed that students deserved something for their money and felt that the Bitterroot College already did enough with respect to “work arounds.” It was someone else’s turn to manage and implement an “alternative.” Council member Tim Johnson stated that he believed having a mental health specialist on-site was a critical element of faculty, student, and staff safety. Clark
mentioned that the Bitterroot College did work with UM Health Services psychological staff and the UM Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) when issues arose, however she indicated that Bitterroot College on-site staff lacked both specialized training and adequate time to handle the myriad and complexity of mental health issues students presented.

From the mental health specialist issue discussion, the conversation turned to other frustrations plaguing the College. Clark mentioned that she was working with UM leadership to address confusion regarding the college admissions process, however she was discouraged by the delay in dialogue and action. Council member Jaime Middleton (and BC faculty member) added that she was experiencing students receiving misinformation as well. Johnson voiced concern about confusion regarding Dual Credit registration and billing timing and notification. Council members discussed at length the possibility of writing a letter to UM leadership with respect to unresolved issues as well as with respect to the Bitterroot College’s position within the UM organizational structure. The discussion ended with Chair Dixie Stark commenting on Council vacancies with respect to replacing former member Kaweh Etminan-Rad (who decided to step down from the Council due to the commitments of a new job) and replacing student member Nancy Valk, whose term had run its course.

7) Work Items
   a) 3-year Marketing Plan Presentation – Kate Johnson – see supplemental materials
   b) FY2016 Strategic Goals
      i) BC Strategic Plan FY2017-2020
         (1) Update from Director on Subcommittee Progress
         (2) Discussion
   Discussion Summary: Agenda item tabled due to length of discussion during Director’s Topic.

8) For the Good of the Order
   Discussion Summary: Agenda item tabled due to length of discussion during Director’s Topic.

9) Adjournment
   Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Meeting notes subscribed by Patricia Skinner and summarized by Victoria Clark