Communications & Comments:

1. **College enrollment for spring 2016**: Final spring 2016 FTE is 98.93; last year spring FTE was at 115.7; percentage decrease of 14.5 percent; primary reason for the decrease is likely a strong employment economy (unemployment in Ravalli County is at 5.6%); other contributing factors may include confusion with admissions process, lack of recruitment effort and materials, and limited program offerings. As a means of addressing college enrollment concerns, Jenny Moore (BC Healthcare Transformation Specialist at 0.75 FTE) agreed to take on an extra 0.25 FTE to lead a Bitterroot College Outreach Team (renamed from “Recruitment Team”). Since adding this duty in December, Moore has set up and staffed over 30 events that include tabling, school presentations, tours, and orientations.

2. **Continuing Education**: Continuing Education enrollment is at record levels. Continuing Education enrollment for this spring, to date, is 388 students (and enrollment is still on-going); **total** Cont Ed enrollment for FY2015 was 314 students (232% increase over spring 2015 [117 students]); increase in enrollment is attributed to the publication and saturation mailing of continuing education course catalog, College’s new location, and increased offerings. A summer continuing education catalog which will also provide information on college admissions, courses, and programming is scheduled to be mailed on May 8.

3. **Academic & Student Affairs**: Libbi Sleath was hired for 16 hours a week through the end of the spring semester as the Bitterroot College Student Support Specialist. Sleath will provide support and referral services to Bitterroot College students with respect to mental, emotional, and stress-related issues. Additionally, Sleath will develop and deliver mini workshops on topics such as Reducing Test Anxiety, Developing Good Study Skills, and Time Management. Sleath holds a MSc in Psychology and is a Licensed Addiction Counselor. Sleath started on March 2 and is already an invaluable member of the BC team! Due to UM budget cuts, UM Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) can no longer send a DSS coordinator to the Bitterroot College to manage the College’s DSS case load. Starting fall 2016, Kathleen O’Leary will have the requisite training to manage the College’s DSS case load; O’Leary will work closely with UM DSS to ensure that all policies, protocols, and processes are fully in compliance.

4. **Workforce Programs**: The Bitterroot College’s TechHire Initiative grant proposal was not among the Community Partner Team proposals selected to be submitted as part of the Montana Department of Labor & Industry’s statewide proposal for funding from the U.S. DOL $100 million TechHire Grant Initiative (http://dli.mt.gov/news/46). We were disappointed, but the relationship started between the Bitterroot College and the Montana Code School as part of the grant proposal process continues and future collaborations are under discussion. The Bitterroot College Commercial Driver License (CDL) Program started eight students in its February cohort and has opened up a second spring cohort to start on April 25. In May and July the BC CDL Program will be offering training at Highlands College in Butte. The Bitterroot College had nine students complete its February Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) program; all students passed the licensing exam. The February cohort was the first Bitterroot College CNA cohort to include high school students (see related Ravalli Republic article http://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_e1cd2da6-e27b-11e5-9289-83cb27ce9293.html). The next CNA training is scheduled to start April 9. Nine students are already registered, only one slot remains. The Bitterroot FabLab now has its own website found at http://www.bitterrootfablab.org/. FabLab
memberships number 12 (including three lifetime memberships) and are continuing to grow! The Bitterroot College Welding Certificate of Science (CAS) program, under the direction of Ryan Smith, enters its third year in fall 2016. TAAACCCT III grant funding for the program ends in June 2016. A request has been made to the UM Provost to provide instructional funding for the continuation of this program for Academic Year 2016-17.

5. **Marketing & Events:** Bitterroot College Geosciences Adjunct Faculty George Furniss has organized a first annual “Bitterroot Water Symposium” to be held at the college on Friday, April 29. Presenters include the Montana Bureau of Mines and Hydrology Research Group, Director of the O’Conner Center for the Rocky Mountain West Larry Swanson, and State Senator Pat Connell among numerous others. Furniss has applied for several grants to fund symposium costs. AmeriCorps VISTA Kate Johnson has submitted her final draft of the Bitterroot College 3-year Marketing Plan (see accompanying document). While the document will continue to be updated and changed as needed, Johnson’s first year VISTA term is complete and her VISTA energies will be redirected to her new VISTA projects—non-traditional student recruitment and strategic planning.

6. **Operations:** Outstanding issues regarding the new facility:
   - Student printing via the PaperCut application is now available to students from computers in the Learning & Testing Center and the Computer Lab.
   - The Bitterroot College and the Hamilton School District are in discussions about removing and replacing the baseboard in the Commons Area as a means to solve the room’s significant fly problem (mold behind the baseboards is the likely food source for the fly hatches). It is hoped that the needed work can be completed over the summer months.
   - Food Service/Concessionaire bids: the College continues to explore expanding vending machine options.
   - Painting the exterior of the building still scheduled for spring—to be completed by Trapper Creek Job Corps.