TO:  All University of Montana Employees

FROM:  Royce C. Engstrom, President

The 2015 Legislative Session will soon be in full swing in Helena. I encourage you to keep updated on legislative issues; the 2015 legislative session webpage on the Montana University System website is a good place to start.

I would like to remind you that MUS employees cannot use public time, money, or other resources to support political candidates, positions, or ballot initiatives. You should not communicate directly to Legislators on personal matters using University equipment or during work hours; this also applies to traveling to Helena to testify on personal matters. Such actions must be taken on your own time and at your own expense. Please take a moment to check the Montana Code Annotated 2-2-121 regarding the rules of conduct for public officers and employees for more detailed information.

Bill Johnston is the lobbyist representing the Montana University System and the campuses of the University of Montana. During legislative sessions, Bill spends his time in Helena and communicates regularly on legislative proceedings. Should Bill contact you regarding a bill or testimony, please give his request your highest priority. Bill can be reached at bill.johnston@umontana.edu or (406) 544-2586. All official University statements on legislative matters are to be coordinated by Bill.

If a Legislator contacts you, please notify Bill immediately. It is important for you to provide timely and accurate information, but we must also distinguish between providing information on your area of expertise and providing what might be construed as an official University or System position. Likewise, should you be asked to testify before a legislative hearing, please notify Bill as soon as possible.

Thank you.

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Engmem280

We have sent this message to your umontana e-mail address because you are a student or employee at the University of Montana. If this is not correct, please do not reply to this message; contact Human Resource Services to update your status. To contact President Engstrom, please write to prestalk@umontana.edu.