Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 | 9:00-10:00 a.m. | UH 004

Attending: Maggie Angle, Alicia Arant, Abigail Belcher, Seth Bodnar, Cathy Cole, Lucy France, Rozlyn Haley, Paul Lasiter, Nathan Lindsay, Matt Newman, Mark Pershouse, Renae Scott, Paula Short, Megan Stark, Sarah Swager, Kelly Webster, Cindy Williams

UM Minute

- Abigail Belcher and Daniel Parsons will be attending the National Campaign Conference for Civic and Political Engagement in Boston in February.
- The academic accomplishments of UM’s student athletes were discussed, including achieving 29 semesters of above a 3.0 GPA. Fall semester 2019 was the third record-breaking semester in a row.
- UM journalism student, Jiakai Lou, won first place in the Hearst Journalism Awards in the Multimedia 1/Narrative Video Storytelling Competition for his film “32 Below.” There were 88 entries from 54 schools.
- President Bodnar shared that there was an All-State Honor Choir event at UM last weekend. Students from across Montana came to UM and there was an excellent performance on Sunday.

Minutes Approval

- Minutes from the 1.8.20 meeting were unanimously approved.

Investments/LRBP Presentation

- Paul Lasiter gave a presentation on UM’s Long-Range Building Planning process and university investments.
- In 2019, UM completed a bond refinancing project which created $63.9M in spendable funds. These monies can be spent on projects that do not require state authority (including auxiliary expenses for residence halls, UM Dining and Campus Recreation, the Combined Heat and Power Plant project, etc.). Any expenditures over $350K need BOR approval.
- Last week, President Bodnar, Kevin Krebsbach and Paul Lasiter met with representatives from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to present requests for consideration in two areas: Capital Projects and Renewal and Replacement Projects. Renewal and Replacement Projects must be under $2.5M.
- Between UM and MSU, projects totaling $160M were presented for consideration. State architects and engineers will now evaluate these projects and determine which ones will move forward. One item being considered is long-range master plan assistance for UM.
- Once consultants are hired, these individuals will work with people across campus to determine the current facility-related needs. The consultants will present recommendations for how best to meet these needs. The importance of respecting the history of campus and allowing for flexibility over time will be considered. Following this process, projects will move...
forward to the State for consideration.

- UM can also ask for authority to spend funds under the purview of UM. UM already has $22.1M in approved Authority Only activity.
- There is a campus communication strategy to update academic officers and campus leadership on this process and next steps.

**Priority for Action #3 Update**

- Kelly Webster thanked cabinet members for participating in an activity at the December PFA meeting around PFA #3’s “permission to play” values: respect, integrity, care for others and accountability. The PFA #3 team will be rolling out the permission to play values more broadly to managers and directors. They will also work with the deans and cabinet members on a concrete list of strategies.
- UM will be launching a Week of Excellence celebration this spring to present awards to and highlight the accomplishments of staff, faculty and students.
- A workgroup is being formed to work on employee on-boarding. Managers are being consulted re: what type of trainings are needed.
- The S.E.A. Change Coordinator position has been posted. This person will manage the student-facing portion of this undertaking. The class will be launched in the fall and ASUM leadership have shared great ideas re: how to promote this course.
- The S.E.A. Change special issue of the Montanan magazine is being distributed. A new S.E.A. Change website will be launched in the near future.
- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist position is moving forward.
- Cabinet members were encouraged to attend equity and inclusion events on campus.
- The Student Advocacy Resource Center has new (temporary) leadership, Drs. Christine Fiore and Alison Pepper. SARC is creating a new bystander training and new resources for victims of sexual assault. The search for a permanent director will hopefully be concluded by the end of spring semester.

**Priority for Action #5 Update**

- It is “yield season” in the recruitment cycle. Communications are being sent that are focused on getting students to confirm. Cabinet members were asked to interact with students/families who appear to be visiting campus.
- President Bodnar is visiting high schools; he recently visited Big Sky, Glacier and Flathead High. He said there is an obvious difference between students who have visited campus only and those who have visited and met with faculty, deans, and chairs.
- It is a busy season in Financial Aid with transfers, new students, returning students and applications. Emily Williamson has completed a structural reorganization and more FTEs have been put on the front lines. Financial Aid has a stable, progressive staffing plan and have worked hard to create a student-focused office that is more accessible.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:58am.