Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 | 9:00-10:00 a.m. | UH 004

Attending: Maggie Angle, Alicia Arant, Abbigail Belcher, Seth Bodnar, Lucy France, Jon Harbor, Rozlyn Haley, Paul Lasiter, Nathan Lindsay, Mark Pershouse, Renae Scott, Paula Short, Megan Stark, Sarah Swager, Kelly Webster, Scott Whittenburg, Cindy Williams

UM Minute

- The Black Solidarity Summit took place at UM Feb. 15-16 and included the dedication of the conference room in the Branch Center to former UM faculty member and founder of the UM Black Student Union, Ulysses S. Doss.
- UM’s New Student Orientation won the Innovative Program Award for Region 1 at the National Orientation Directors Association conference. Congratulations were given to Devin Carpenter, Sarah Swager and Cathy Cole for their hard work on UM’s orientation programming.
- Abbigail Belcher shared that ASUM is holding a new event in UC 330-331 on April 9 called the “Wet Lab.” Conducted by the Montana Highway Patrol in coordination with UM, UMPD and various community partners, the Wet Lab is an alcohol education event designed to inform attendees about the mental and physical effects of alcohol on the mind and body. ASUM is looking for volunteers to participate.
- The Provost’s Office has been reviewing faculty tenure and promotion files and this process is moving ahead. Provost Harbor shared that reading these files confirms the quality of the faculty we have at UM.
- Paul Lasiter shared that the enrollment report was sent out. UM is up 164 students from the census date this term. If all these students confirm, UM will exceed the budgeted numbers for this term.
- UM launched a program called Griz Guides this year where UM faculty and staff are partnered with a group of freshmen from the residence falls. Mark Pershouse and Jon Harbor are partners in this effort and recently gave out gift bags with information about each of them and an invite to tour Missoula Bone & Joint.

Minutes Approval

- The minutes for the Cabinet meeting 2.12.20 included two items for Priority for Action (PFA) #2. The second instance was an updated on PFA #3.
- With this change, the minutes were approved.

UM Investments and LRBP Overview

- Paul Lasiter shared the latest draft from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education re: the Montana University System Long Range Building Program Priority List.
- This list includes new capital projects and major repair projects.
- The highest priority item is a MUS system-wide security, key system and electronic access project.
- Paul Lasiter reviewed the items on this list related to UM and UM’s affiliate campuses, including close to $24M in major repairs.
UM’s highest priority item for new construction is a Science Lab & Forestry Building. The plans for this complex address the need of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation for faculty to be in the same location and the need of the College of Humanities & Sciences, among others, for new lab spaces. Even with state funding, Paul Lasiter noted that additional funding will be needed for this project.

Paul Lasiter also shared information about the Authority Only Projects where UM is not asking for state-funding but rather for the authority to move ahead and make improvements. UM’s list for Authority Only Projects includes improvements to the Music Building, Rankin Hall and the Mansfield Library.

Priority for Action #4 Update

- Scott Whittenburg shared a handout detailing the three sub-committees for PFA #4: Standardization, Definitions and Training.
- A summary for the fall semester of 2019 was shared for We Are Montana in the Classroom. This included that an estimated 2,000 students and 31 high school teachers were engaged through this program and 27 UM faculty members participated in a professional development workshop.
- A discussion was held about the importance for consistency and rigor around launching students into careers. A more in-depth update on the work of the Experiential Learning & Career Success office will be held in the future.
- A call is out for proposals for the second annual Big Sky Experience. A much larger group of organizations want to participate this year.
- A discussion was held about the March 3rd Mid-Year Leadership Gathering. The primary focus of the day will be on the PFAs but this will also be an opportunity to celebrate progress and areas of success.
- President Bodnar shared that as we continue focus on steady, tangible progress, it is time to broaden our focus to look at where UM will go in the future. EAB recently conducted a session with UM’s leadership team looking at the “student of tomorrow.” As we work to define the attributes that should define UM in the future and how best to serve our community and students, a similar session with EAB will be offered to UM employees in early April.
- UM is looking at our strategic direction and how best to incorporate this into an annual process that will be actionable and updateable.

Public Comment

- An update was shared about UMSummer 2020. UM is targeting out-of-state students through social media and also making efforts to provide better support for international students.
- A discussion was held about UM’s Summer Institutes and how best to promote these, especially to students who live within 120 miles of campus.

Adjourned at 9:21am.