Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 | 9:00-10:00 a.m. | Zoom

Attending: Maggie Angle, Alicia Arant, Charity Atteberry, Abbigail Belcher, Seth Bodnar, Claudine Cellier, Cathy Cole, Kris Csorosz, Lucy France, Kayla Haar, Jon Harbor, Rozlyn Haley, Kent Haslam, Kirk Lacy, Paul Lasiter, Adrea Lawrence, Maricel Lawrence, Nathan Lindsay, Christopher Palmer, Mark Pershouse, Terri Phillips, Brian Reed, Renae Scott, Paula Short, Emily Steger-Ferguson, Megan Stark, Sarah Swager, Kelly Webster, Scott Whittenburg, Cindy Williams

UM Minute

- Cabinet members recognized Abbigail Belcher for her incredible service as ASUM President.

Minutes Approval

- Paula Short moved to approve the minutes from the 4/8/20 meeting as submitted. Minutes were approved.

University Design Team Overview

- Cabinet reviewed the work of the three teams currently guiding UM’s operations:
  - The Campus Preparedness and Response Group (CPRG), led by Paula Short, has been managing UM’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The work of this team will ramp up again as UM adjusts to a slightly changed operating structure as we transition to Phase 1 of statewide re-opening.
  - As we look to the fall 2020 semester, UM created a new team, the Mission-Based Team, to outline steps we need to take to operate most effectively over the next twelve months.
  - The third team, the University Design Team (UDT), will collectively work to prepare UM for long-term success and impact. UM will announce the creation of the UDT shortly in campus-wide communications.

- As we move forward during this time of a global pandemic, President Bodnar shared that UM leadership must acknowledge the financial limitations students will face and the need, more than ever, for students to be career ready following graduation. To this end, the work of the Experiential Learning and Career Success office is becoming increasingly important, as is interdisciplinary learning and the need for lifelong learning opportunities.

- Beginning their work in May, 2020, the University Design Team (UDT) will deliberately explore how we can best position UM for long-term success and impact. Drawing upon the perspectives of our campus community, as well as of our external stakeholders, including community leaders, business leaders, admitted students and prospective students, the UDT will consider the challenges and opportunities faced by institutions of higher education and will identify design principles and potential strategies to position UM as a flagship for America’s future.

- The UDT - and our wider campus community - will explore how UM can best:
• provide an education that prepares our students as both career-ready and tomorrow-proof;
• expand our conception of education to include learners at all stages of life and career; and
• expand the reaches of knowledge through research and graduate programs of national excellence and impact.

• The UDT will ultimately share concrete ideas regarding how best to position UM to be a flagship for America's future before transitioning the implementation of these strategies to the Priorities for Action teams to actualize.

Mission-Based Team Report
• Claudine Cellier and Adrea Lawrence gave an update on the work of the Mission-Based Team (MBT).
• Cabinet discussed the need for the MBT to interface with the MUS-level task force regarding strategies for the fall 2020 semester.
• Jon Harbor and Steve Thompson are serving on the MUS Healthy Fall 2020 Task Force. Jon Harbor commended the MBT for their work and asked if he can share the presented information with the MUS task force.
• Paula Short raised the issue of how best to align the different groups currently working on UM’s plans during the time of this global pandemic.
• President Bodnar shared that the MBT’s role is to plan for fall semester on the UM campus. The work of the MUS task force will impact and inform the MBT’s work. The CPRG will continue to guide UM’s response to COVID-19 before the work of the CPRG and MBT amalgamates as fall semester approaches.
• Paula Short mentioned that there is a group of public health experts that has been tasked with thinking about what will be needed to safely hold events, classes, etc. UM leadership will need to determine where this group can best help.
• Claudine Cellier, in the Zoom Group chat, shared that the public health group will be critical in defining and implementing actions related to select strategies the MBT is proposing.
• President Bodnar asked Paula Short to define and communicate perimeters for the work of the public health experts.
• Kirk Lacy asked how MBT recommendations will be implemented and how the MBT can best prepare deliverables for the implementation mode. President Bodnar responded that plans will be implemented by deans, sector heads and department heads. MBT will make recommendations and the UM leadership team will determine how best to implement actions and who will do this important work.
• President Bodnar asked the individuals representing CPRG, MBT, the public health employee workgroup and the MUS Healthy Fall Task Force form an interface plan to be developed in next day to ensure clarity of direction.

Public Comment
• Brian Reed brought up the issue of a digital divide that exists in Montana and asked if discussions re: statewide conductivity are being held. President Bodnar shared that increasing statewide access via broadband is one of the items for which Montana is seeking funding.

Adjourned 10:15am.