



Pilots, Plans, and Powerful Conversations

This issue brings together pilots, planning, and conversations that shape Academic Affairs this fall. Volunteer for the Faculty Activity Reporting pilot, review your course materials by Oct. 15, and see where Academic Portfolio Review and spring scheduling stand. Faculty Senate highlights and upcoming events round out the issue.



Faculty Volunteers Needed for the FAR Pilot

The Office of the Provost is looking for faculty volunteers to pilot Faculty Activity Reporting (FAR), an online tool in Interfolio for keeping a record of teaching, scholarship, creative work, service, and professional activity. The pilot runs from mid-October through the end of November 2026 and includes faculty from across colleges and ranks, including non-tenure-track faculty. Participants will try the tool and share what works and what doesn't, and their feedback will shape FAR before it opens to all faculty in Spring 2027.

Joining the pilot is voluntary. Sign up by **Sunday, 19 October 2026**. To learn more, visit the [Faculty Activity Reporting website](#).

[Sign-Up for the FAR Pilot](#)

Final Reminder | Review Course Materials Due This Week

The Spring 2027 course materials deadline is this week.

Before the deadline, please review your assigned courses and confirm that course material information is accurate and complete.

Whether your course uses traditional textbooks, digital resources, OERs, library materials, instructor-created content, or no required materials, providing that information helps students prepare for registration and make informed decisions about course costs.

Thank you for helping ensure students have the information they need to plan for a successful semester.

Please complete this review by October 15, 2026.

Instructions for course materials adoptions are linked below.

Course Materials Adoption Instructions

Academic Portfolio Review: Pilot Update

The Office of the Provost submitted 20 petitions to OCHE as part of its Ongoing Program Review Pilot. The petitions were submitted by the September 30 deadline, with one additional petition on October 8 following further data validation. A summary of the petitions was presented to Faculty Senate at last month's meeting. OCHE is reviewing them, and we will notify affected departments and deans once it responds.

Seven programs are proceeding with improvement plans. We are meeting with each dean, chair, program director and college AFO, and the Provost Office will assist with initial drafting. Final drafts are due to our office January 15, 2027, ahead of submission to OCHE on January 30.

APR will also address conditions outside OCHE's pilot, while still using their pilot thresholds: individual programs with declining enrollment, certificates and minors

with no enrollment or completion in three years, and interim review of new programs. Outreach to affected programs begins this month. Programs meeting thresholds for monitoring may request a meeting with our office at any point this academic year.

Read the full update on the Academic Portfolio Review updates page linked below.

[Academic Portfolio Review Updates webpage](#)

Submit Fall 2027 through Summer 2028 Schedules in CLSS

Fall 2027, Spring 2028, and Summer 2028 schedules are now open for planning in CourseLeaf CLSS. Departments are asked to submit them **by February 1, 2027**. Submitting by that date gives the Office of the Registrar time to process workflows before data moves to Banner.

A few planning notes:

- Your first submission is a draft of your bulk schedule (CourseLeaf calls this “design mode”). Once the Registrar reviews it for data consistency, it moves to Banner and becomes visible to students and advisors.
- After review, you can keep editing individual sections. Changes typically push to Banner right away.
- For Spring and Summer 2028, include only sections you know will be offered. Uncertain offerings can be added later.
- Schedules appear in GrizPortal after review, but only Summer 2027 and Fall 2027 open for registration in Spring 2027. Spring 2028 registration opens next fall.

Questions? The Registrar’s scheduling team is happy to help, including by Teams. Email registrar_rooms@umontana.edu or call (406) 243-2414.

[Course Scheduling webpage](#)

NWCCU Webinar: Dialogue as a Durable Skill, Preparing Students for College, Work, and Civic Life

Friday, November 6, 2026, 2 to 3 p.m. MT (1 to 2 p.m. PT), with Q&A until 3:30 p.m., virtual

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and the Constructive Dialogue Institute are hosting a free webinar on building campus cultures of open inquiry and constructive dialogue. Speakers from Weber State University and the University of Portland will share practical strategies for strengthening these skills across the student experience. A recording will be available to all registrants.

[**Register for the NWCCU Webinar**](#)

Faculty Senate Meeting Recap | October 2026

The Faculty Senate met on October 8, 2026, welcoming President Jeremiah Shinn, who provided an update on his emerging priorities for the University of Montana, including enrollment growth, student success, financial stability, and improving institutional operations. The meeting also brought together leadership from Staff Senate and ASUM to share current initiatives and explore opportunities for greater collaboration in shared governance. Additional updates included the results of the Senator AI survey and ongoing efforts to evaluate AI statements in course syllabi, as well as concerns surrounding proposed revisions to BOR Policy 710.2.2 regarding termination of faculty for cause. Campus safety was a key topic, with representatives from the University Police Department and Facilities Services providing an overview of the University's security camera system and addressing questions about privacy, security, and transparency. The meeting concluded with a review of proposed changes to TOEFL scoring requirements for international student admission.

[**Faculty Senate Meetings webpage**](#)



EVENTS



[Join the Virtual Canvas Training](#)

Canvas New Quizzes: Migration, Importing, and Item Banks **10:00 - 10:10 AM, Tuesday, Oct. 13, Virtual**

Canvas no longer supports Classic Quizzes, so we will fully transition to New Quizzes by Summer 2027. Learn how to migrate classic quizzes, import quiz content, and use item banks to organize and reuse questions. Can't make it live? A recording will be available after the session.



[Dialogue In-Person Registration](#)

[Dialogue Virtual Registration](#)

Mansfield Dialogue: Governor Asa Hutchinson **7 PM, Tuesday, Oct. 13, UC Ballroom and/or Virtual**

The Mansfield Center presents a dialogue with Governor Asa Hutchinson on how America can move beyond divides and place principle above partisanship.

Journalist Maritsa Georgiou will moderate a conversation focused on practical solutions, mutual respect, and the rule of law. Learn more on the [Mansfield Center dialogues page](#).

"The End of the Research University?"



Dell Brown Room
Turner Hall
Friday, October 23rd
12noon - 1:30pm

A presentation by Johann Neem, Professor of History at Western Washington University. He is author of three books: *What's the Point of College?* Seeking Purpose in an Age of Reform (2019); *Democracy's Schools: The Rise of Public Education in America* (2017); and *Creating a Nation of Joiners: Democracy and Civil Society in Early National Massachusetts* (2008).

Light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Democracy Studies Program and the Department of History.

For further information, contact Professor Kyle Volk
<kyle.volk@umontana.edu>



Lecture: The End of the Research University?

12:00 - 1:30 PM, Friday, Oct. 23, Dell Brown Room, Turner Hall

A presentation by Johann Neem, Professor of History at Western Washington University. He is author of three books: *What's the Point of College?* Seeking Purpose in an Age of Reform (2019); *Democracy's Schools: The Rise of Public Education in America* (2017); and *Creating a Nation of Joiners: Democracy and Civil Society in Early National Massachusetts* (2008).



SUBMISSIONS

Use the AA Newsletter Submission Form button below to share your content with the Academic Affairs sector. To be considered for next Monday's newsletter, submissions need to be received by Friday at 10:00 AM.

[AA Newsletter Submission Form](#)

University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812

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