



Chancellor's Cabinet Meeting Minutes  
October 18th, 2022

**Meeting began at 2:00 pm**

**In Attendance:** Chancellor Stefani Hicswa, Dr. Sep Eskandari, Michael Bazemore, Maureen Brakke, Paula Highlander, Joann Stryker, Kathy Kotecki, Krista Montague, Dr. Kim Hayworth, Leslie Weldon, Natalie Preston

**Absent:** Dr. Jennifer Lynn

**Foundation Processes:**

MSUB Foundation President CEO Krista Montague shared the proposed process by which campus entities can request fundraising, as well as the request form. Her goal is to promote transparency of the process of receiving fundraising requests and ensure that projects requesting funding meet the criteria that they contribute to the mission of the university. Requests will be routed through Deans and Vice Chancellors before being formally submitted to the Foundation.

**Fee Memo:**

Interim Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance (VCAF) Leslie Weldon provided an overview of fees currently charged to students. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellors expressed commitment to being intentional with fee assessment. Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success Kim Hayworth confirmed that students expect a tangible result when there is an increase in a fee(s) so communications with students about fees need to provide more details than stating that costs for the university have increased.

**Second Chance Pell Grant:**

V.C. Hayworth gave the group an update on MSUB's participation in the Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Program. MSUB is offering two programs in the men's and women's prisons in Montana that are online and fully asynchronous. These programs, one associate and one bachelor's degree, may allow inmates to complete degrees they started before incarceration. There have been 36 applicants and 12 accepted for spring semester 2023. For those not yet accepted, MSUB is seeking further information from the Department of Corrections, mostly regarding applicants' academic history. A FAFSA workshop was hosted in the women's prison in Billings, and a virtual FAFSA workshop is planned for the men's prison in Deer Lodge.

Commented [BMJ1]: Never "associate's" always "associate"

Provost Eskandari explained that course delivery methods have been modified to maximize access and success for incarcerated students. Director of Institutional Research Joann Stryker stated that

incarcerated students will be counted in the census along with the on-campus and commuter cohort despite being high risk. Therefore, Dr. Eskandari reiterated that the success of these students is very important.

**Sprint Degrees:**

Provost Eskandari continues to work with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) on the Sprint Degree Program. There are two pilot tracks being discussed, one in which an associate degree can be completed within three semesters, and one in which a bachelor's degree can be completed within seven semesters. To be successful, students in these tracks will need financial aid for summer, financial assistance other than outside jobs due to increased workload, and a direct path to employment.

**Strategic Plan Update:**

The Cabinet reviewed the strategic plan framework and discussed the work that is ongoing for each sub-objective. As is apparent after meetings with sub-objective leads and considering such achievements as the Center for Teaching and Learning creation, the work of the DEI Council, and the Retention and Graduation Plan, work is complete on many sub-objectives. The steering committee for 3.2 (strengthen relationships with the Billings community and alumni) will meet this spring to review plans and check for gaps.

The strategic plan will be current through 2027. During the 2025-26 academic year, Chancellor Hicswa will lead campus in strategic visioning rather than strategic planning.

**Strategic Resource Reallocation:**

Interim VCAF Leslie Weldon is working with team to assess the status of the strategic resource reallocation project for each department. Information gathered will be organized and ready for analysis by the Executive Team by late November or early December 2022 so that institutional plans can be made. Chancellor Hicswa expressed her encouragement for the opportunities this project brings to be strategic with the budget, rather than reactive. This reflects a change in campus culture.

**Soccer Field Update:**

Athletic Director Mike Bazemore provided an update on repair of the soccer field. He recently met with Sanderson Stewart Engineering who will soon finalize plans and submit them to the State Architecture and Engineering Division. Mr. Bazemore will then contact the turf and construction companies. Completion of the soccer field project has been in progress for more than one year and has been complicated by many factors.

**Article Presentation:**

Krista Montague presented the article "How to Become an Expert" by Roger Kneebone and discussion followed.

**Meeting concluded at 4:00 pm**

**Minutes taken by Natalie Preston, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor**