

# Montana Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers

## Fall 2007 Meeting Minutes

### UM-Western

#### THURSDAY, October 25, 2007

The meeting opened with a greeting from UMW Chancellor Richard Storey,

Association President Lane Holte asked those present to introduce themselves and to provide a summary of their Fall 2007 enrollment (roughly half of the member institutions enrollments and FTE were down compared to 2006 Fall counts).

There was a discussion of Distance Education in Montana - how various institutions provide support, enrollment impact, what some members view as positives & negatives or this form of delivery and where we see this medium going into the future.

The Tech Prep program was reviewed. The OCHE and OPI are heading the program and it appears to be moving back to the original concept of providing college credit/recognition for more vocational-type courses (TP courses are offered by high schools as part of 6-9 career clusters, including construction and trades, business, health programs, etc). FVCC has agreed to serve as a recorder of Tech Prep credits and will provide transcripts of course completions to participating high school students. Members discussed how they treat TP credits in terms of acceptance.

Cathy Swift, OCHE Legal Counsel, led a discussion of the MUS Regents policy on residency. Cathy provided a brief overview of the specifics of the policy (12-month residency establishment period, acts and behavior indicative of intent to establish residency, presumptions, preponderance of action within 60 days of initial act, dependency vs majority of support vs minors, minimum enrollment during the 12-month period, overcoming presumptions, etc). Several recent residency cases that were decided by the BOR were discussed and members provide scenarios of residency requests from their campuses. Cathy clarified the policy section regarding students with divorced parents where one parent is a non-resident and another is a resident, etc. Exceptions to the 12-month residency period and how enrollment in campus ROTC programs affects residency were also discussed.

Cathy reviewed a couple of changes and prospective changes to Regent policy: Senior Citizen waiver (now a discretionary waiver, minimum age is 65), American Indian waiver, Veteran's waivers, possible credit limit on tuition waivers, 2% cap on out-of state waivers, etc.

#### Friday, October 26, 2007

Roger Barber provided an overview of draft policies and changes to academic/admissions policies:

- Developmental Courses (proposed draft)
- Math Proficiency (changes)
- Composition Placement (proposed draft)

There was discussion concerning how implementation of these policies might affect enrollments at MUS units, concerns were expressed that students not meeting minimum standards may not consider attending units of the MUS in lieu of out-of-state colleges with less rigid standards. Roger mentioned that MUS policies provide an entry point for any resident wanting to higher education – there are no guarantees about the starting point however.

Roger also mentioned that he will be conducting audits of MUS unit policies and practices concerning covered under the MUS System of Controls Policy. Units should be prepared to demonstrate they are complying with provisions of the policy including: centralized repository for transfer records and student evaluations, verifying sign-offs in transfer evaluations, complying with time-line provisions, and providing students with a process to appeal transfer course evaluations, etc. MSU-Billings has satisfactorily completed their audit.

There was discussion of how units treat new freshman applicants who have completed significant amounts of credit via dual enrollment, AP, CLEP, etc. Some students are complaining that they should be treated as transfer students (rather than new freshmen) relative to admission & orientation.

Roger provided a brief review of the process in place to find his replacement - members expressed their appreciation for Roger's service to the MUS and for his support for MACRAO and its members and for his efforts in keeping us informed and involved in the MUS policy development processes. We will all miss Roger, he's been a good friend and colleague.

Bill McGregor, MUS Director of Transferability Initiative, was introduced to the membership and expressed his intent to include MACRAO members in discussions with regard to the transfer initiative. Bill mentioned that the first transfer initiative council meeting will be held in Helena Nov 9. He encouraged representation at these council meeting from among MACRAO members.

### **ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING**

Association Lane Holte opened the MACRAO Business meeting.

There was discussion about updating the MACRAO e-mail list.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Spring 2007 MACRAO meeting and the Treasurers report was approved.

Spring 2008 meeting dates were approved: **April 3 & 4, 2008.**

There was discussion about meeting locations and we should consider scheduling meetings in more central locations in the state to save on travel costs. The state financial aid officers association rotates their meetings around six (6) sites. Representative from **MSU-Great Falls COT** graciously agreed to serve as hosts for the **Spring 2008** meeting (to showcase their new learning facilities).

Cheri mentioned that Dannette Sullivan, Student Clearinghouse, and Tyler Trevor planned to attend the meeting and may ask for time on the agenda of that meeting.

There was discussion of the association providing financial support for officers (and possibly members) who attend regional (PACRAO) and national (AACRAO) conferences. Members generally agreed this is something we should be doing. Chuck mentioned that he thought there was language in the MACRAO by-laws that allowed for such action. Cheri suggestion that it might be a good idea to provide members with a copy of the association by-laws at the Spring meeting.

Meeting adjourned.