May 12, 2015

Colleagues:

As we close in on commencement, we wanted to share with you some campus news – most of which is relatively new since our previous instructional faculty meeting. Overall it is has been a good year and we want to extend our thanks and congratulations for your hard work and dedication. While many of you will be on campus over the summer, some of you will not start again until August. Until then, we wish you a safe summer enjoying Montana, family, and friends.

1. The Board of Regents will meet May 20-22 and their agenda includes final approval for tenure and emeritus nominations. The Regents will be setting tuition (expected to be flat) and most likely modest increase on some fee rates. The Regents will also consider final allocations for Performance Based Funding (PBF). Preliminary results show that Tech is on track to get 100% based on the metrics of retention percentage and completions. A thank you for engaging students and helping them be successful.

2. Via the budgeting process, the campus approved over $700,000 in one-time-only (OTO) expenditures in support of academics. An email was sent to the campus on May 4th listing the approved funding items.

3. If you were unable to attend the 29th Annual Montana Tech Awards TGIF on May 6, 2015 of special note are the ROSE & ANNA BUSCH AWARD RECIPIENTS: Butch Gerbrandt, Jack Skinner, Susan Leland, Scott Risser, Gretchen Geller, and Carrie Vath. DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS: Ginette Abdo, MBMG, Waleed Al-Rawashdeh, CLSPS. Jack Skinner, School of Mines & Engineering. LIFETIME DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS AWARDS RECIPIENTS: Susan Vuke, MBMG and Stephen Parker, CLSPS. Mary North-Abbott was the recipient of the ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD, as selected by the students. The PAUL AND PAULETTE MILLER AWARD went to Pat Munday.

4. We held a groundbreaking on April 30th for the Natural Resource Research Center (NRRC) addition to the Engineering Laboratory Classroom (ELC) building. We are in the process of moving utilities and foundation work will begin in early June. In response, we are adding parking next to the Bob Green Field that will be ready for the fall semester. Again many thanks to the State of Montana for providing $5M as well as to our special donors, ConocoPhillips, Halliburton, and Anadarko, for their matching gifts totaling $5M. We are working towards occupying in the fall 2016 semester.

5. The legislative session is completed and the Montana University System (MUS) and Tech in many ways had a positive outcome. Legislation that passed included a pay plan, $15M for MUS-wide research funding, and a Present Law Adjustment. In combination these will almost certainly result in the Regents keeping tuition at the present rates. However SB 416, the infrastructure bill, failed to pass. For Tech this means the long range building plan that included $10M in renovation funds was not funded.

6. Vanessa Van Dyke has been hired as the Director of Human Resources and will begin June 1. Kay Dellen was also hired as the Provost Office Administrative Associate and is already on campus.

7. As a result of our visit to China, we have two teams from Chinese universities visiting Tech this summer: China University of Mining and Technology – Beijing in June and Sun Yat-Sen University in July. As the dates become more final, we will provide information and invitations for campus involvement.

8. New ASMT leadership starting in the fall will be Kerry Lombard, President; Jamie Nelson, Vice President; and Jake Erpenbach, Treasurer.

9. The 4th Annual TechXpo was held April 30th with 95 projects on display and just over 200 students participating. This year was the largest Techxpo to date, with 20 more projects than in previous years. Awards were given to
26 projects, plus a Best in Show Runner-up and a Best in Show, totaling $6,000 in prizes. The attendance was very good and included elementary and high school students from local schools. The event included the Chamber of Commerce monthly business card social. Thank you Susie Anderson for organizing the event and to the Institute for Educational Opportunities for helping make the event successful.

10. Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m. in the Butte Civic Center. We will confer 539 certificates and degrees in academic year 2014-15. Sandy Stash will give the Commencement Address, and Lt. Governor Angela McLean is slated to welcome the graduates and their guests. Other awards to be conferred are:

**HONORARY DOCTORATE**
Marc LeVier

**CHANCELLOR’S MEDALLIONS**
Dr. Frank Aplan, MS 1950 Mineral Dressing
Mr. Floyd Bossard, BS 1950 Geological Engineering

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**
Mr. Larry Hoffman, BS 1969 Mining Engineering
Dr. Michael Johnson, BS Bus Admin 1990
Mr. Hugo Pulju, BS Geological Engineering 1958, MS Geological Engineering 1964

**UUNO SAHINEN SILVER MEDALLION AWARD**
Dr. Don Winston

Thank you again for your hard work this year and please have a safe summer.

Don Blackketter and Doug Abbott