

Budget Council Minutes
Tuesday, October 14th, 2025
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Montana Room, NAH 359

Members:		
Terry Leist	Robert Mokwa	Alison Harmon
Steve Swinford	Ryan Knutson	Kim Obbink
Becca Belou	Brian Gillespie	Craig Woolard
Rob Maher	Audrey Capp	Kirstin Jones, ASMSU
Francis Kawalski		

1. **Call to Order - Chair Terry Leist**
 - [Called to order at 4:02 pm](#)

2. **Approval of Minutes for April 8th, 2025**
 - [Motioned to approve](#)

3. **University Information/Announcements**
 - Introduction of new representatives
 - Welcome Becca Belou, the interim University Data & Analytics/Planning Council representative.
 - Welcome Rob Maher, the Faculty Senate representative.
 - Welcome Audrey Capp, the Staff Senate representative.
 - Welcome Kirstin Jones, the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) representative.
 - Board of Regents Overview – [May](#)
 - 2027 Biennial Budget Recommendations; OCHE/MUS [ITEM 218-101-R0525](#) | [Budget Building Blocks](#)
 - [Legislature meets and allocates funds for next two years, must start thinking three years ahead](#)
 - [Submit personnel paid from state funds for calculated increases and present law adjustments. We typically receive less than half of what is put forward.](#)
 - [Housing or dining needs Board of Regents approval, and academic building needs to go through legislative process for funding](#)
 - [We cannot issue debt for academic buildings so those must be prioritized via the LRBP process](#)
 - [Board of Regents allocates the money to each of the MUS campuses](#)

- [Tuition | Campus Tuition & Fee Schedules](#)
- [Fees](#)
- [State Funding Allocation \](#)
- [Performance Funding](#)
 - *Increase in appropriation from FY25 to FY26*
 - *\$3.1 million given for new space, State given approval*
 - *Includes funds for operation and maintenance (custodial, mail services, police, utilities)*
 - *Board of Regents reviewed total revenue per student as a part of the allocation decision-making process*
 - *Tuition and fee process happens from the bottom up, classes with fees propose these (parking, room and board)*
 - *Tuition set by Board of Regents to increase \$18 per credit hour for all students for flagships (special focus/STEM is \$15, 4-year regional is \$12, and 2-year colleges is \$4)*
 - *This includes resident/non-resident and undergraduate and graduate tuition*
- Request for Authorization and Approval to Proceed with Major Repair Projects Authorized by the 69th Legislative Session; OCHE/MUS [ITEM 218-103-R0525](#) | [Attachment #1](#)
- Board of Regents Overview – [September](#)
 - Request for Approval of Montana University System Operating Budgets - FY26; OCHE/MUS [ITEM 220-101-R0925](#) | [Attachment #1](#) | [MUS Operating Budgets](#)
 - *This is the meeting where operating budgets are approved*

4. **Action Items**

5. **Public Comment/Member Feedback**

6. **Training and/or Data Review**

- “MSU-Bozeman Financial Overview” – Megan Lasso
 - *Fund type overview*
 - *Current unrestricted*
 - *Tuition and state funds*
 - *Auxiliary (self-supporting, operation more like businesses)*
 - *Room and board, Parking, and Health Services*
 - *Designated*
 - *Ticket sales, testing services, course fees, ASMSU fees*
 - *Testing Svcs*
 - *Restricted*
 - *Grants, donors, and other external sponsors*
 - *Restricted to what donor or granting agency determines*
 - *Plant*
 - *Capital projects, Renewal & Replacement*
 - *MSU Total Revenue*
 - *\$1.1 billion in FY25 expenditures, including internal recharges that occur*
 - *Current unrestricted is 25.6%*
 - *FY26 budget*
 - *Current unrestricted is 27.4%*
 - *MSU net current unrestricted (FY26)*

- *30-35% has come from state overtime*
- *Resident net tuition is 13.7%*
- *Nonresident tuition makes up larger proportion of budget*
- *MSU student FTE enrollment (FY26)*
 - *FTE is different than headcount, helps to standardize across the system*
 - *Resident undergrad: 43.4%*
 - *Resident graduate: 4.9%*
 - *Non-resident undergraduate: 36.6%*
 - *WUE: 11.1%*
 - *Non-resident graduate: 4%*
 - *Net Revenue per FTE by type*

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 11th, 2026
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Montana Room, NAH 359