

**Budget Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 11th, 2026**  
**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

*Montana Room, NAH 359*

|                 |                 |                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Members:</b> |                 |                      |
| Terry Leist     | Robert Mokwa    | Alison Harmon        |
| Steve Swinford  | Ryan Knutson    | Kim Obbink           |
| Luke Schalewski | Brian Gillespie | Craig Woolard        |
| Rob Maher       | Audrey Capp     | Kirstin Jones, ASMSU |
| Taylor Pajunen  |                 |                      |

1. **Call to Order**

*Chair Terry Leist*

2. **Approval of Minutes for October 14th, 2025**

a. **Approved at 11:05 am.**

3. **University Information/Announcements**

a. Introduction of new representatives

- Welcome Luke Schalewski, University Data & Analytics representative.
- Welcome Taylor Pajunen, Graduate Student representative.

b. Board of Regents Overview – [November](#)

- Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS [ITEM 221-100-R1125](#) | [Attachment #1](#)
- Long-Range Building Program (LRBP), 2027 Biennium
  - o LRBP [Process and Planning](#)
  - o [Preliminary Consolidated LRBP List](#)
  - o Major Repair: [UM](#) | [MSU](#)
    - a. Look at academic buildings not funded through student fees.

- b. Borrow money to build or renovate new buildings.
- c. Sometimes we get funding from state or fundraising authority.
- d. Must wait for legislative cycle for the process to go through.
- e. Cannot take out debt to build new state buildings.
- f. LRBP (long range building program) is the way to get money.
- g. LRBP Introduction:
  - i. Way for state agencies to fund major repair and capital development projects.
  - ii. Led by MSU president and coordinated by PDC.
  - iii. Continuous process, prepare for next session before current one is completed.
  - iv. FCA: Facilities condition assessment.
  - v. BOR approval is in March of 2026.
  - vi. Start with FCA, capital needs inventory, 6-year capital improvement plan, then long range building program.
- h. MSU is having accessibility modernization done to Cheever Hall and Lewis Hall renovation.
- i. Operations include police and mail services.
- j. Major repair projects are less than \$2.5 million.

c. Board of Regents Overview – January

- Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS [ITEM 222-100-R0126](#) | [Attachment #1](#)
- Request for Authorization to Transition from Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Structure to Montana State Fund Coverage; OCHE/MUS [ITEM 222-101-R0126](#)

4. **Discussion Topics/Information Items**

- a. Discussion of budgeting processes historically and for the future
  - History focus has been on state unrestricted funds.
  - How much revenue to generate, fixed expenditures, obligations, and what is leftover.
  - Planning and analysis had a reallocation model for who would get any extra money.

- Post 2010 Budget Council was changed to allow for more VP representation and MSU governing bodies like how it is structured today.
- Reallocation became part of investment process around FY22.
- In FY23 invested heavily in staff salaries.
- No formal call for investment proposals in FY26.

**5. Public Comment/Member Feedback**

- a. Seed grant money with council approval.
- b. Budget follows the Strategic Plan, but the Strategic Plan might not follow the budget.
- c. Revenue growth is another option, which has increased from research and enrollment growth.
- d. Opportunity to think about how campus resources can be re-used, such as libraries have changed from being able to check out books, but its use has now evolved.
- e. Need to find things that need to be funded and make sure they are being prioritized such as classroom technology.
  - Also could consider furniture which is constantly used, do you replace on a cycle or another method.

**Next Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, April 14th, 2026**  
**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Montana Room, NAH 359**