



Accounting & Business Advisory Council Meeting Notes
DON 122, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
3.2.2023

Community Advisory Board Members

- Mike Walker – State of Montana Motor Vehicles Division
- Andrew Page- Page and Co Bookkeeping
- McKinley Winkle- Helena Chamber and Helena Wins
- Chris Manos – MBAC and HC Business Law adjunct
- Tom Burkart – Opportunity Bank of MT
- Rachel Schanz – CPA and Helena College accounting adjunct
- Jason Slade- Communications Director at MT DOR
- Andy Shirliff –MT DLI Business Engagement Specialist

Helena College Advisory Board Members

- Robyn Kiesling-Executive Director of General Education and Transfer
- Bonnie Johnson-Accounting Instructor
- Cari Schwen – Executive Director of Fiscal Services and Accounting adjunct

Helena College Attendees

- Sandy Bauman –Dean/CEO
- Lewis Jackson – Assistant Director of K-12 Partnerships
- Greg Thompson – Retention Specialist
- Melissa Mousel – APC Administrative Associate

1. Overview of Program and Questions
 - a. Program First year Seminars
 - i. Online and Hyflex
 - ii. Accounting

1. AAS Accounting
2. CAS Bookkeeping-Stackable with AAS Acct.

iii. Business

1. AAS Business
2. CAS Entrepreneurship – Stackable with AAS Bus

Comments made:

- Internships for working adults may or may not be beneficial due to other commitments
- Internships are 1-3 credits. They are set up between student, instructor, and employer.
- Handshake our online employment platform has possible filter issues –There is a pathway called U integration that works with Handshake. MCIS is similar to it. There is a possibility that U Integration will be updated.

- iv. Transfer—Accounting & Business-Through MT Tech the students earn a BAS Through U of M or MSU –Those students going this route, their goal is to get their MBA

**Looking ahead –We need to add Digital Marketing/social media courses

2. Role of Advisory Council

- a. Employer and industry connection
- b. Collaborative opportunities
- c. Community connection for HC and HC students
- d. Advisory council webpage

3. Moving Forward:

- a. Hiring- for Business Faculty position
- b. New program and credential ideas
- c. Updating degree pathways
- d. Other?

4. Miscellaneous

- Tech and Finance Night is on Mar 23rd 5-7 at Carroll
- Looking at Vita reimplementation for taxes starting next tax year. This service to the community went by the way side due to Covid and the retirement of the faculty member that had spearheaded this event.
- It was suggested that Business students are working in the Insurance world and that we should make sure that our students are aware of this avenue of employment.
- Cosmetology has some of our business courses built in. They will end up with half of their CAS requirements in business or entrepreneurship and then will have the opportunity to complete it if they want to.
- Dual Credit opportunities are becoming more popular in our high schools for those that are seeking an education in business/accounting.