



**MONTANA**  
**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

# AGENDA HANDBOOK

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING AGENDA ITEMS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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# Contents

<b>GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BOARD SUBMISSION DEADLINES &amp; APPROVAL SCHEDULE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ACADEMIC ITEMS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
HONORARY DOCTORATE AWARD .....	6
REGENT PROFESSOR AWARD .....	7
CAMPUS MISSION AND CORE THEMES .....	8
<b>SUBMITTING REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
ITEM TEMPLATE .....	9
NUMBERING AGENDA ITEMS .....	9
FORMATTING AGENDA ITEMS .....	11
<b>OCHE CONTACTS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>INFORMATION FOR HOST CAMPUSES .....</b>	<b>17</b>
HOST CAMPUS ROOM REQUIREMENTS.....	17
REFRESHMENTS .....	18
LODGING .....	18
<b>BOR MEETING ROOM LAYOUT .....</b>	<b>19</b>

## GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

Pursuant to the Board of Regents (BOR) by-laws, the board shall not meet less than on a quarterly basis and will convene if other or special meetings are called by the governor, chair of the board, or by request. Currently, the board convenes at least six times a year, two of which are considered “planning sessions” (January and July meetings). At each meeting, the board reviews requests, proposals, staff-related items, and other reports and receives updates from campuses and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE). The BOR agenda is prepared by the Board Secretary, Jasmine Casanovas, before each meeting. It includes items carried over from previous meetings, new agenda items from campuses and OCHE staff, informational items for discussion, and any outside requests agreed to by the Commissioner or the Board Chairman. This handbook is a resource to assist with the submission of BOR items and meeting preparations for the host campus.

Meetings are generally scheduled to begin on either Wednesdays or Thursdays, with Committee meetings running consecutively; however, the meeting schedule is flexible and subject to change at any time by the Commissioner or the Board Chairman. It is the responsibility of the campus to ensure they are aware of the current meeting dates and corresponding deadlines.

Items that may be submitted to the Board include regular board items, academic items, and informational items. A campus report should be submitted for the Board to review at every meeting.

Submission deadlines are crucial to the agenda compilation process. Due to the review process that must occur, enforcement of these due dates is imperative. Exceptions or late submissions are approved solely by the Commissioner and Board Chair. Please do not assume items will be included if submitted late.

The most up to date schedule and deadlines are available at <http://www.mus.edu/board/meetings/meetingschedule.html>.

*Note: The timeline and due dates for Academic Items are different than those for regular board items. Please visit <https://mus.edu/che/arsa/academicproposals.html> for the current Academic Research and Student Affairs timeline.*

## BOARD SUBMISSION DEADLINES & APPROVAL SCHEDULE

- Regular agenda items are due to OCHE **four weeks** before each meeting. This includes all presentation materials such as PowerPoints, documents, etc.
- If a deadline falls on a holiday, items are due on the preceding business day. If a meeting date changes, the deadlines are adjusted accordingly.
- The finalized agenda and meeting materials will be posted to <http://mus.edu/board/meetings/agendas-and-minutes.html> one week (7 days) prior to the meeting. At this time, OCHE will notify the media and campuses of the agenda release.

For a timeline of regular item deadlines visit: <http://mus.edu/board/meetings/meetingschedule.html>

For a timeline of Academic Item deadlines please visit: <https://mus.edu/che/arsa/academicproposals.html>

**Note:** *These deadlines are established for the submission of agenda items to OCHE only. The two flagship institutions are responsible for making sure their respective campuses are aware of any campus submission deadlines that fall before OCHE deadlines.*

## ACADEMIC ITEMS

Academic Items include the following items:

- A. Notifications – reported to the Board of Regents
  - 1. Moratoriums
    - a.) Placement into
    - b.) Withdrawal from
  - 2. Intent to terminate
  - 3. Campus certificates of 29 or fewer credits
  - 4. BAS/AA/AS programs of study
  
- B. Level I – approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education
  - 1. Temporary Approval of CAS/AAS Proposals
  
- C. Level I with Level II documentation – approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education
  
- D. Level II – approved by the Board of Regents
  
- E. Campus Mission and Core Themes – approved by the Board of Regents
  - 1. Mission Statement Review
  - 2. Mission Statement Revision
  - 3. Revision of Core Themes
  
- F. Academic Program Reviews

For information pertaining to the types of requests listed above please visit the [Academic Affairs Handbook](#).  
For forms related to Academic Items, please visit [Academic Forms](#).

## HONORARY DOCTORATE AWARD

According to BOR Policy 322.1 – Honorary Degree, an honorary doctoral degree may be awarded by any campus of the Montana University System (MUS) if the campus has authority to award earned baccalaureate degrees. The honorary doctoral degree will be awarded by the Board of Regents on the basis of a recommendation from the commissioner of higher education, the president of The University of Montana-Missoula or Montana State University-Bozeman, and the chancellor of one of the other four baccalaureate-granting institutions, when the degree originates from that campus.

This is a two-meeting process. The nominee is not informed until after the Board completes Step 1.

**Step 1:** A letter of support is submitted by the campus President to OCHE coinciding with the regular board item due dates. At the BOR meeting, a nomination is made during executive session.

- No item number or item template required
- Letters of Support are helpful/appreciated

**Step 2:** At the next regular BOR meeting, an action item will be listed simply as Honorary Doctorate; Campus Name on the ARSA agenda. *The name of the individual will be announced at the BOR meeting when that item comes up.* There is no certificate required or presented, as recognition is given at commencement.

- An item number is required
- Item Template is required
- Support letters are not required

## REGENTS PROFESSOR AWARD

According to BOR Policy 702.6 – Regents professorship, the rank of Regents Professor is established within Montana University System to be awarded at the discretion of the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the commissioner of higher education or one of the presidents or chancellors.

This is a two-meeting process. The nominee should not be referred to as an award winner until the Board takes final action in Step 2.

**Step 1:** The campus president nominates the candidate by submitting a letter of support coinciding with the regular board item due dates. The nomination is discussed in executive session. After executive session, the nominee is informed.

**Step 2:** At the next regular BOR meeting the following is listed on the ARSA agenda:  
REGENTS' PROFESSOR NOMINATION; CAMPUS ITEM XXX XXXXXXXX | ATTACHMENT #1 |  
ATTACHMENT #2

- Item number will come from campus
- Attachment #1 – president's letter of support (required)
- Other attachments – other letters of support (not required)

Three certificates are created by OCHE with the Regent's seal and presented at the meeting (one for OCHE official records, one for campus records, and one for the nominee). These are not framed when presented. When the certificate is presented often times the recipient's campus CEO will speak to the award recipient while the Board Chair and Commissioner present the certificate.

## CAMPUS MISSION AND CORE THEMES

### 1. Mission Statement Review

Board of Regents [Policy 219 – Mission Statements; Montana University System](#) requires that the Board review campus’ mission statements every three years.

Mission reviews are to be submitted as an Action item with other “regular” Board Items using the [Item Template](#).

#### Mission Review Schedule

September	MSU Bozeman UM Missoula
November	MT Tech, MSU Billings, MSU Northern, UM Western
March	Helena College UM Great Falls College MSU

### 2. Mission Statement Revisions

Board of Regents’ [Policy 303.1 – Curriculum Proposals](#) states that any revision of an institutional mission shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Regents.

Mission revisions are to be submitted as an Action item using the [Item Template](#) and any additional supporting documentation.

### 3. Revision of Core Themes

The revision of an institutions core themes shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Regents.

The revision of core themes shall be submitted as an Action item using the [Item Template](#).



## SUBMITTING AGENDA ITEMS

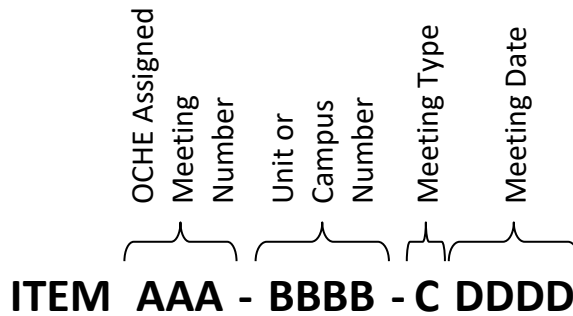
**All campus agenda items are submitted to OCHE through the two flagship campuses or by the community colleges.** One person on each MUS campus serves as the agenda coordinator for that campus. This person oversees the preparation and submission of BOR agenda items. Items are prepared on the individual campuses and then sent to the appropriate flagship institution. After the items are approved by the university president or designee, the university agenda coordinator ensures that all items are numbered and formatted correctly and sends the final versions along with a master list of all items for submission electronically to Jasmine Casanovas at OCHE ([icasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:icasanovas@montana.edu)) for final review. \*The three **community colleges submit their agenda items directly** to Jasmine Casanovas at OCHE ([icasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:icasanovas@montana.edu)).

### Item Template

All items must be submitted with an Item Template which can be found at the following link: <http://mus.edu/board/meetings/Forms/FormsInfo.html>

### Numbering Agenda Items

If you have questions on numbering BOR Items, please call Jasmine Casanovas at (406) 449-9127, or e-mail [icasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:icasanovas@montana.edu).



- A. The first three digits of an item number will be assigned by the OCHE office and communicated to campuses approximately one month in advance of the item due dates.
- B. The second set of numbers identifies the unit submitting the item, be it a campus, MUS/OCHE. The assigned numbers are as follows:

Campus	Number
Montana University System   Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	100
Community Colleges (General)	150
Dawson Community College	200
Flathead Valley Community College	300
Miles Community College	400
<b>UM</b>	
The University of Montana-Missoula	1000

Montana Technological University	1500
Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology	1500A
UM-Western	1600
Helena College-UM	1900
<b>MSU</b>	
Montana State University-Bozeman	2000
MSU-Agricultural Experiment Station	2300
MSU-Cooperative Extension Service	2400
MSU-Billings	2700
MSU-Northern	2800
Great Falls College-MSU	2900

***Staff items will always end in 00. All other items are numbered sequentially, beginning with 01.***

*Example: ITEM 147-1000-R0510 is a staff item from The University of Montana-Missoula; ITEM 147-1001-R0510 is an additional UM item.*

- C. The letter just prior to the final set of numbers represents the meeting type. This is usually an "R" to reflect agenda items submitted for **regular** BOR meetings. However, the following letters may also be used as applicable:

- C Conference Call Meeting
- S Special Meeting
- W Workshop

*Example: ITEM 147-1001-R0510 is an item for a regular meeting. ITEM 147-1001-C0510 would be an item for a conference call meeting.*

- D. The last four numbers represent the month and year of a meeting.

*Example: ITEM 147-1001-R0510 is an item for the May 2010; ITEM 147-1001-R1010 is an item for an October 2010.*

- E. **If an item is pulled from the agenda and carried over to a later meeting, please give the item a new number with the new meeting date.** Place an asterisk after the item number with the following text placed in the footer:

\*ITEM XXX-XXX-RXXXX is carried over from the [MM/DD/YYYY] Board of Regents meeting where it was listed as ITEM [previous item number].

\*This does not apply to Level II Items. These items will keep their original item numbers to indicate where they are in the approval process.

Note: Level I items will be numbered with an LI and the month/year they are submitted to OCHE. Ex. ITEM AAA-BBBB-LIDDDD

## Formatting Agenda Items

Agenda items should **ALWAYS** be prepared using one of the templates available online at <http://mus.edu/board/meetings/Forms/FormsInfo.html>. Please do not save old templates; campuses are responsible for formatting corrections.

All items should include at least the Item Template.

All supporting materials must be listed at the bottom of the Item Template under ATTACHMENTS. Supporting materials (attachments) must include a header in the upper right-hand corner that contains the item number and page numbers, for example:

ITEM #147-1000-R0510\_A1  
Page 1 of 1

Please follow the formatting tips below for all items and supporting materials:

- Submit materials in Word.doc format when possible
- Use Calibri font (the templates and forms are defaulted to this)
- Utilize the least number of pages necessary for easier displaying purposes, pay attention to spacing and margins

Please save the item files as the item number, utilizing hyphens rather than periods. The filename for supporting materials should include the item number and a brief notation of what the document is. A master list from the Flagship campuses and Community Colleges is greatly appreciated. Please see below for examples of the filenames using an example from above:

Item Template	147-1000-R0510
Attachment #1	147-1000-R0510_A1

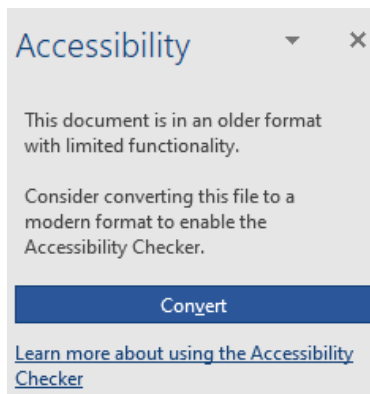
## ENSURING ITEMS MEET WEB ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

The Montana University System and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have equal access to programs, benefits, and services pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This includes providing all users with the ability to access electronic content. MUS is currently working to improve the accessibility of its electronic content by complying with [W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0 Level AA](#) and the [Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite \(WAI-ARIA\) 1.0](#) (see <https://mus.edu/accessibility.html>).

- A major portion of documents that are posted for Board of Regents meetings are finalized into a PDF format. It is best to ensure that the source document (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) is accessible **prior** to generating a PDF. After the PDF is generated, there may be additional steps to perform on the PDF within Adobe Acrobat to ensure that the PDF is accessible.
- Both Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat include built-in accessibility checkers. It is strongly recommended that these built-in checkers be utilized to identify and resolve accessibility issues **prior to submitting documents for posting on the MSU.edu website**

## Microsoft Office Format

Office documents must be in the newer Office format to use the Accessibility Checker. On the ribbon, click the **Review** tab then click **Check Accessibility**. If you see the following message, you will need to convert your document and save it. Once you've done that, the accessibility checker will check your document.



When you run **Check Accessibility**, it will show a list of items or errors and will allow you to correct them or will provide more information about how to correct them. Common issues that must be fixed include adding alternate text for images, adding a document title, and removing extra spaces in place of tabs, etc. Other items may be a little more difficult to address, such as tables. Fix accessibility issues in the source document before you “Save as Adobe PDF” – this may save you some time.

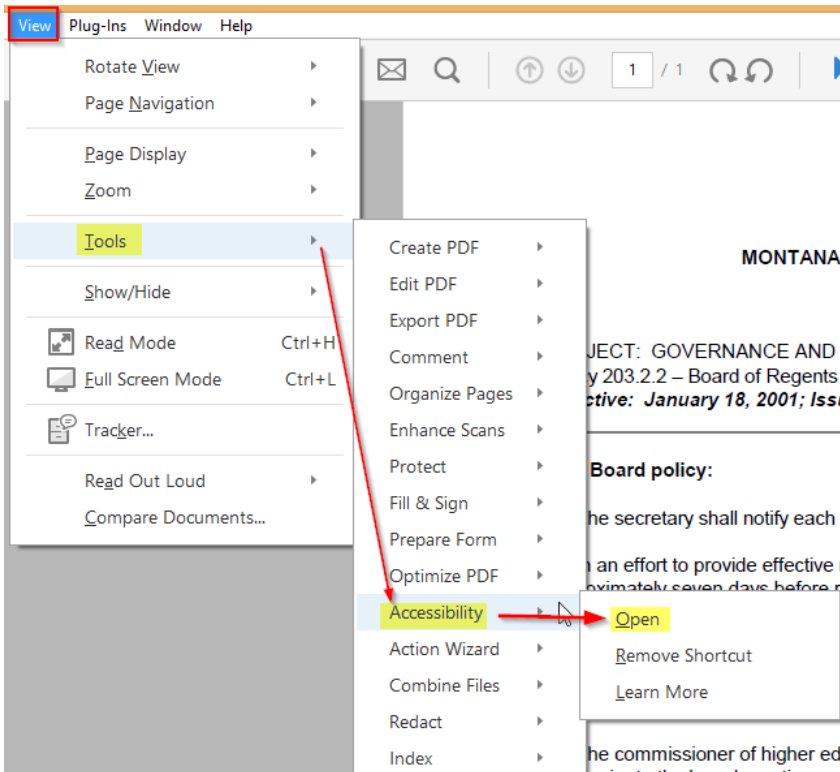
For specific information on identifying and fixing accessibility issues in Microsoft Office documents, visit “[Make your content accessible to everyone](#)” on the Microsoft website. There are a lot of resources available there, including [training videos](#).

See [Rules for the Accessibility Checker](#) for more information.

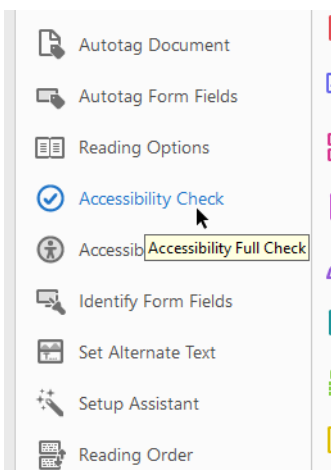
## Adobe Acrobat Accessibility Check

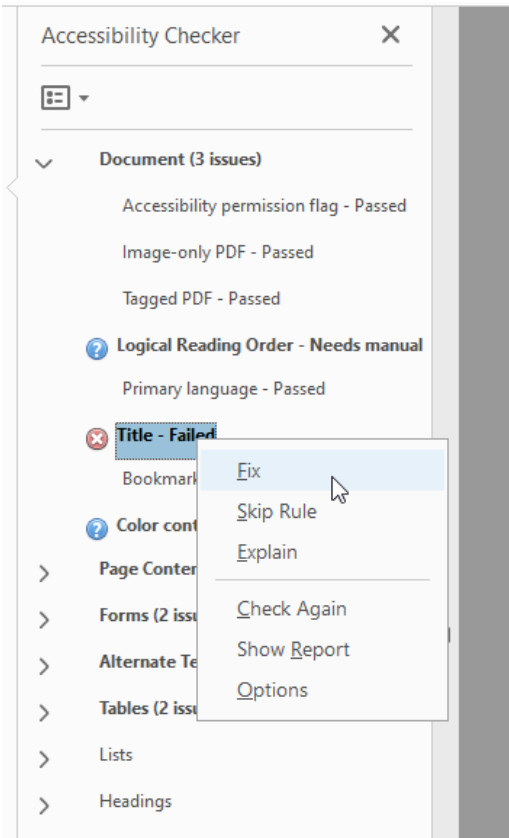
After the PDF is created, run **Accessibility Check** in Adobe. You must use Adobe Acrobat to find and fix accessibility issues; Adobe Reader does not have that capability.

To check for accessibility issues within the PDF, select View > Tools > Accessibility



Select “**Accessibility Check**” and then review any issues that were found. Some issues can be fixed within the accessibility checker by right-clicking on the issue and then select “**Fix**” (or select any of the options for more info). Others cannot be fixed with the click of a button; information on how to fix those will be provided in a link to the appropriate location on the Adobe website. Also, verify that the reading order of pages is set properly.





Tables can be more difficult to fix with Adobe Acrobat. Where possible, fix accessibility issues in the source document before generating the PDF. Some PDF accessibility issues may not be easily resolved in a timely manner; in those instances, exceptions can be made.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

[Techniques for WCAG 2.0](#)

[Microsoft Office Accessibility Center](#)

[Making content accessible to everyone](#)

[Make your Word documents accessible \(Microsoft\)](#)

[WebAIM: Creating Accessible Documents \(in Word\)](#)

[Creating and verifying PDF accessibility](#)

[PDF Techniques for WCAG 2.0](#)

[WebAIM: Converting Documents to PDF](#)

## **VIDEO PRESENTATIONS/INCLUSIONS**

If you are planning on using a video or similar for presentation purposes, please note that these files are due along with all other board items on the listed due dates. Please let Jasmine Casanovas ([icasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:icasanovas@montana.edu)) know if you have plans to use a video or audio in any presentation so PBS can do appropriate testing.

Please submit your video files using the following specifications for live feed purposes:

- .mp4 (h.264),
- 10-15Mbps,
- 48k audio

If any presentation includes copyrighted material (such as background music in a video presentation), campuses must determine whether they may use the material (for example, under the fair use doctrine or with the permission of the copyright holder). If a campus determines that it cannot use the material or if the campus cannot ascertain whether it can use the material, the campus must remove the copyrighted material from the presentation before submitting it to OCHE for inclusion on the Board agenda. Since the BOR meetings are livestreamed on YouTube, we must ensure that any content included on the agenda and/or played during the livestreamed meeting complies with copyright law. Questions regarding what material is subject to copyright law should be directed to campus legal counsel.

## **POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS:**

Please ensure all PowerPoint presentations are designed to 16x9 (rather than 4x3) for display/projection purposes.

## OCHE CONTACTS

- For **general questions** on agenda items please contact Jasmine Casanovas at 449-9127 or [icasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:icasanovas@montana.edu).
- For questions on the preparation of **Administrative and Budget** items, please contact Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning, at 449-9145 or [ttrevor@montana.edu](mailto:ttrevor@montana.edu)
- For questions on the preparation of **Academic and Student Affairs** items, please contact Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner, Academic, Research & Student Affairs at 449-9129 or [btessman@montana.edu](mailto:btessman@montana.edu). Joe Thiel, Director of Academic Policy & Research, can also assist with any questions at 449-9129 or [jthiel@montana.edu](mailto:jthiel@montana.edu).
- For questions on the preparation of **Legal** items, please contact Ali Bovingdon, Chief Legal Counsel, at 449-9166 or [abovingdon@montana.edu](mailto:abovingdon@montana.edu).
- For questions on the preparation of **Two-Year and Community College**, items, please contact Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner, Academic, Research & Student Affairs, at 449-9129 or [btessman@montana.edu](mailto:btessman@montana.edu).
- For questions on the preparation of **Staff and Compensation** items, please contact Kevin McRae, Deputy Commissioner for Communications & Human Resources, at 449-9166 or [kmcrae@montana.edu](mailto:kmcrae@montana.edu).



## INFORMATION FOR HOST CAMPUSES

- The Board will have breakfast with faculty representatives during **September, November, and March** meetings. If the legislative session is underway the March breakfast meetings may be overtaken by activities during session. In addition to Board members, attending should be the Commissioner, MSU-Bozeman President, UM-Missoula President, host Chancellor or Dean, and any OCHE staff member designated by the Commissioner.
- The Board will have breakfast with classified staff representatives (MUSSA) during the **May** meeting. In addition to Board members, attending should be the Commissioner, MSU-Bozeman President, UM-Missoula President, host Chancellor or Dean, and any OCHE staff member designated by the Commissioner.
- The Board will have a breakfast with local civic and business leaders, generally on the mornings of the second day of the meeting. The host campus of the current meeting is responsible for inviting local attendees and should prepare and **share the list of attendees with the Commissioner's Office prior to sending invitations**. The Commissioner, MSU-Bozeman President, UM-Missoula President, host Chancellor or Dean, and any OCHE staff member designated by the Commissioner as welcome to attend.
- The Board will have lunch with Montana Association of Students representatives, generally on the first day of the meeting.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the host campus for all meeting attendees during days of the meeting.
- Evening reception (at the discretion of campus)

### Host Campus Room Requirements

- OCHE works with each campus prior to a meeting to coordinate other room requirements for various meetings that take place the day before a Board meeting.
- One large room for full BOR meeting (seating for 100 to 150 people) generally for two full days
- Small conference room for executive session (seating for 10)
- Other rooms for luncheons, dinner, receptions, etc., at the discretion of campus and OCHE
- Each host campus will need to provide IT support to complete equipment set-up the day before the meeting and be present throughout the entire meeting to assist with all IT needs
- Please ensure that each table in the head table arrangements are covered with full length tablecloths
- Please ensure that there is microphone set at each spot around the head table
- Arrange for copy/printing capability for minor print jobs near the meeting space
- Private internet network for BOR/OCHE head table with password – this helps immensely with connection issues
- Network connection instructions and password on all tables (different than that of the head table)

- Comfortable chairs, preferably with wheels or that slightly recline and have cushions for the head table and OCHE table. If the campus can also provide for CEOs that is greatly appreciated
- Please provide adequate signage for the various rooms being used for things including: breakfast, lunch, executive session, etc.

## Refreshments

- Water (bottled please) and individual coffee carafe on the head table for all Regents and others seated there
- Continental breakfast for attendees each morning
- Breakfast for Regents and faculty senate representatives/staff association
- Coffee, water, and light refreshments during meeting
- Lunch for Regents and student leaders
- Breakfast for local business leaders with Regents (the campus sends invitation letters to local civic and business leaders)
- Evening reception (at the discretion of campus)
- Food signage is very much appreciated, at the discretion of the campus, for food allergies such as gluten and nuts.

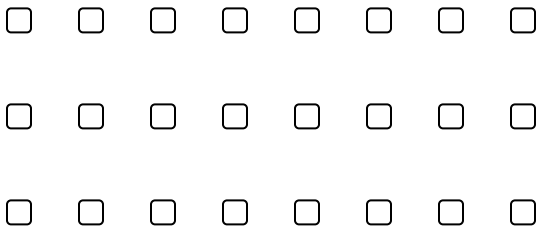
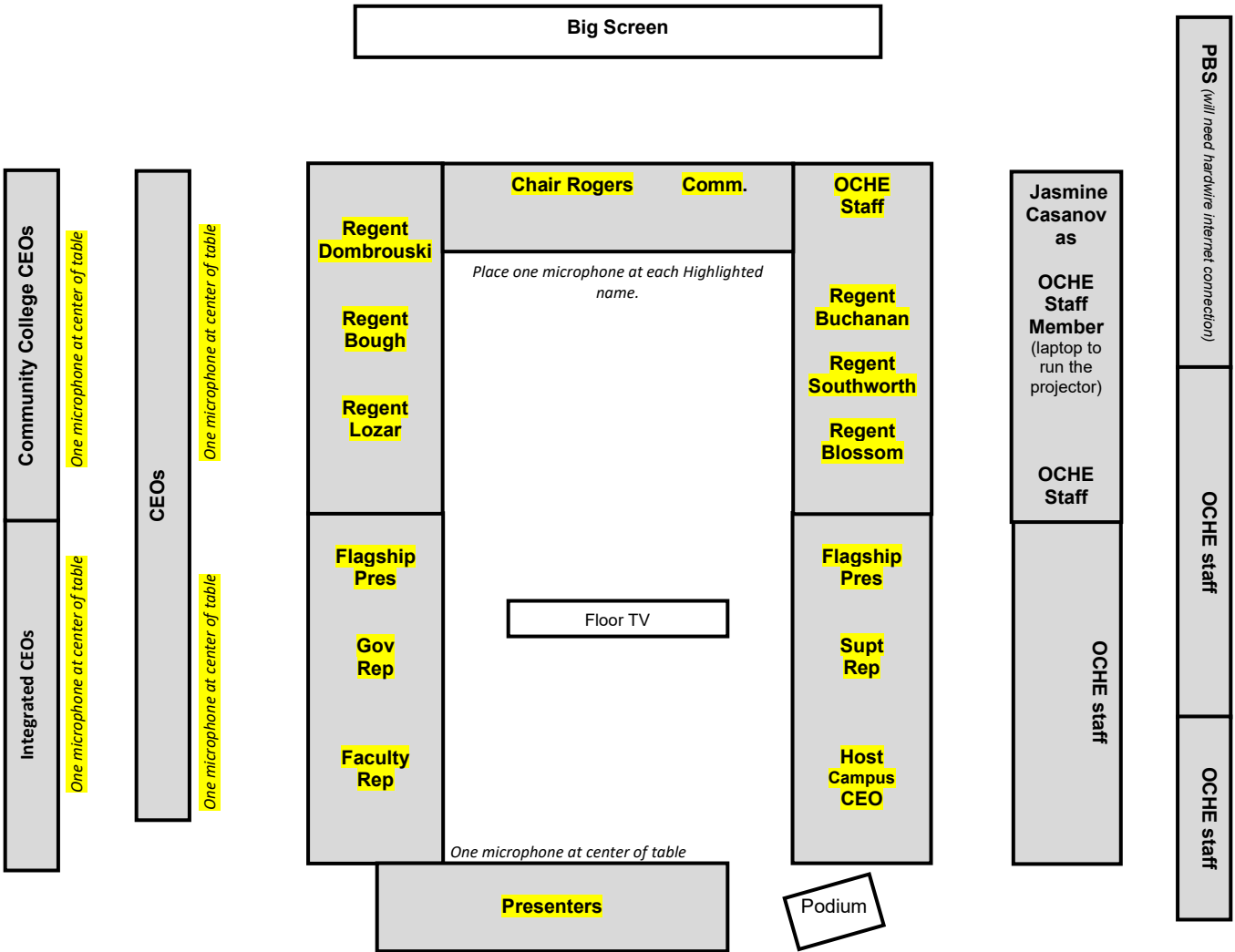
## Lodging

- Set up blocks of rooms at 3-4 local hotels for state rate or better (likely will be 50 – 70 rooms needed total) and send this information to Jasmine Casanovas [jcasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:jcasanovas@montana.edu) approximately **six weeks** prior to the meeting

## Board Equipment Checklist

- OCHE will send a copy of the BOR equipment checklist to the current host campus to complete and return to OCHE after the meeting concludes. OCHE will review and pass along to the next meeting's host campus for cross reference when they receive the equipment.

# BOR MEETING ROOM LAYOUT



Aisle w/  
chairs on  
either side

