

# Welcome to Faculty Senate!



Doug Downs  
Professor, Faculty Senate  
Chair  
English

Leila Sterman  
Professor, Faculty Senate  
Chair-Elect  
Library



# Faculty Senate Meeting Reminders

- Faculty Senate is an open and public meeting
- Please, only Senators speak in the meeting, unless you are specifically called on by the Chair or Chair-elect
- Please let others speak; everyone should get a chance to speak before someone else speaks twice.
- The public may address the Senate during the designated public comment period (2 minutes per speaker).
- Be kind: assume positive intent and generate goodwill.

# Approval of FS Minutes from Sept. 30, 2026

- Motion to approve?
- Second?
- Discussion?
- Those in favor of approval?
- Those opposed?
- Those abstaining?

# Consent Agenda

*Items on the consent agenda include undergraduate and graduate new course and course change proposals and any program proposals. All proposals are included in the meeting agenda with links to CIM pages for each proposal. Senators should review these items prior to meeting.*

- Removal of any items for separate discussion?
- Motion to approve the consent agenda?
- Second?
- Those in favor of approval?
- Those opposed?
- Abstentions?

# FYI Items

- **Fall Faculty Tea**, hosted by the Provost – Thurs. Oct. 15, 3-5 p.m., Leigh Lounge – [RSVP](#)
- **Faculty Discussion Session** hosted by Faculty Senate: Annual Review policy – Weds. Oct. 21, 3:15, LJH 346
- **MUS Mental Health and Wellbeing Summit** – Mon-Tues Oct. 19-20  
<https://www.montana.edu/calendar/events/58663>
- **Dyslexia & Innovation Symposium** – Thurs Oct. 22 – <https://www.montana.edu/dxi/>
- **Faculty Symposium: “Reclaiming the Classroom: Cultivating Purpose, Connection, and Growth in Teaching”** – Monday, October 26th, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm – Inspiration Hall
- **Provost’s Distinguished Lecture Series** – Dr. Jason Bolte, Director, School of Music – Nov. 3, 7 p.m., Reynolds Hall

# Information Updates

# University Committees in Need of Members

Seeking committee representatives—please contact Doug with your interest in serving:

- Two faculty to serve on an “**Academic Data & Reporting Roadmap Task Force**,” which will advise Data & Analytics on what dashboards and reporting the university should focus on maintaining
- Still tracking down faculty for **Core** and **CFAC**

# Montana Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC)



**Dr. Patrick Secor**  
Associate Professor  
Microbiology and Cell Biology

# Montana's Rare Disease Advisory Council

A conversation with MSU Faculty Senate

Patrick R. Secor, PhD and RDAC representatives



# **RDAC brings lived experience and professional expertise together with the goal of improving the lives of Montanans affected by rare diseases**

**Patients and caregivers**

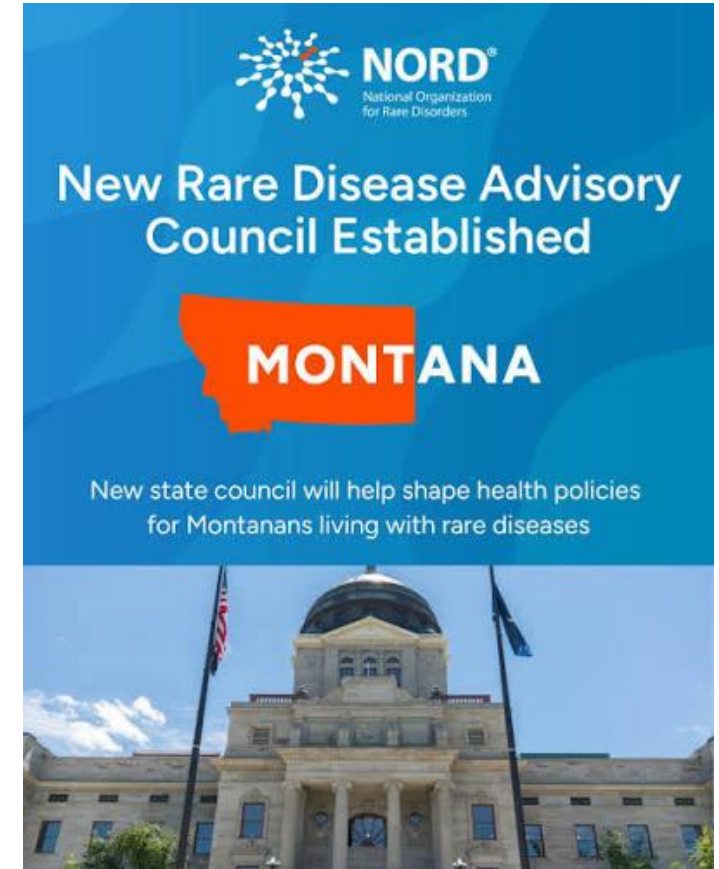
**Clinicians and researchers**

**Health systems and public service**

**State Universities**

**Federal Laboratories**

Established in 2025 and housed within DPHHS, the council advises the public, legislature, and agencies on the needs of Montanans with rare diseases.



# Who is RDAC?

## 17 members

Appointed by the Governor

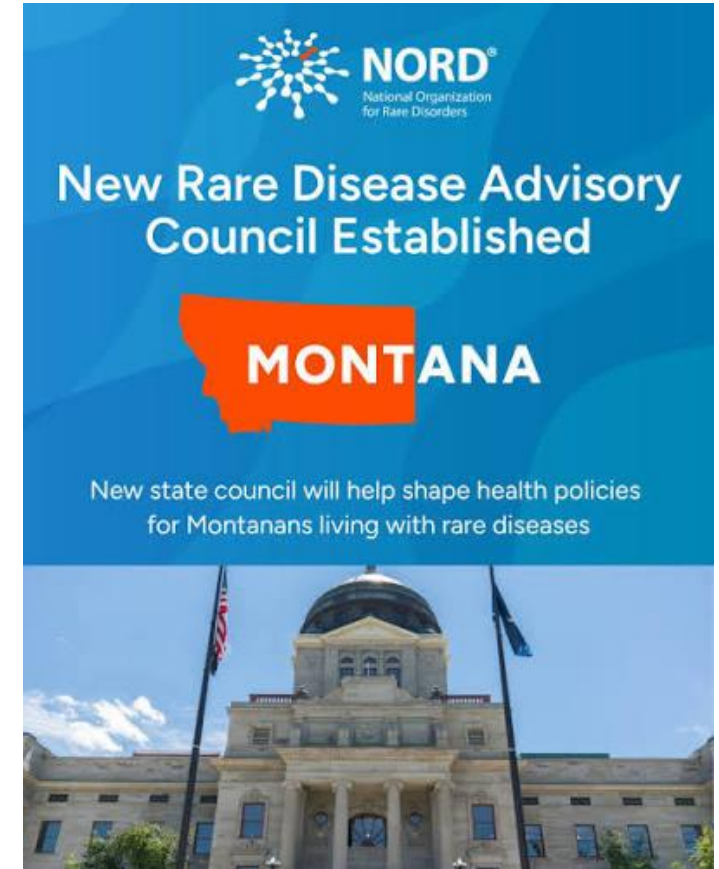
Hear from Montanans affected by rare diseases

Recommend ways to improve access to care

Support provider education and public resources

Report recommendations to state leaders

Meets monthly



# Who is RDAC?

## Member

Brett Baker  
Jennifer Banna  
Kelsey Bell  
Marshall Bloom  
Siera Boyd  
Maggie Cook-Shimanek  
Joe Cross  
Deborah Gibson  
Jaclyn Haven  
Erin Hoch  
Michele McKinnie  
Caitlyn Patera  
Melanie Reynolds  
Patrick Secor  
Elizabeth Wood

VACANT

VACANT

## Represented seat

Biopharmaceutical industry  
Montana rare disease patient organization  
Montana Medicaid  
Rare disease research community  
Pharmacy  
Department of Labor and Industry  
Individual with a rare disease  
Montana Public Health Laboratory  
Hospital administration  
Caregiver  
Mental health provider  
Nursing (RN/APRN)  
Individual with a rare disease  
Montana academic research institution  
Physician  
Health plan company representative  
Geneticist or genetic counselor

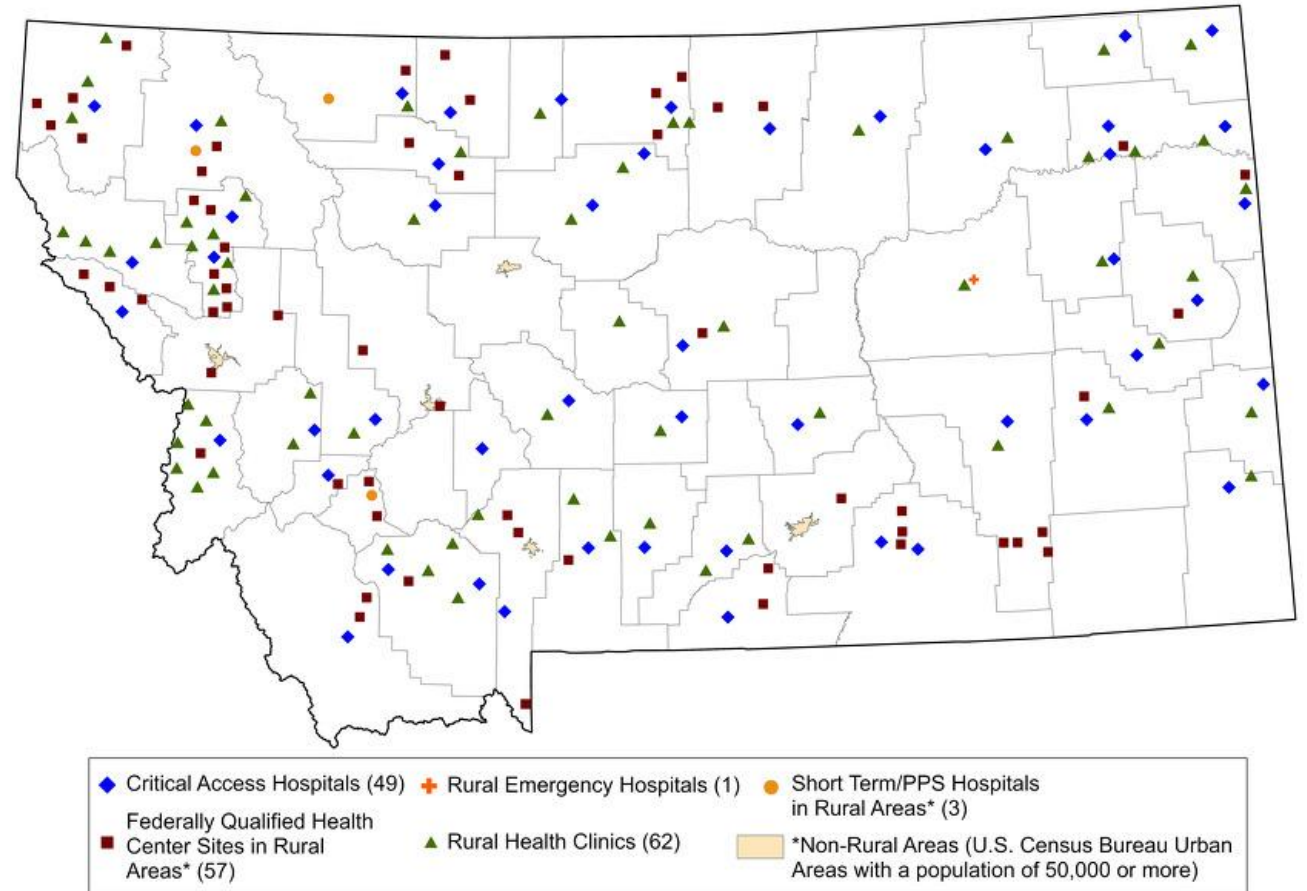
# Rare disease care in rural Montana

Diagnosis and testing

Specialty consultation

Care close to home

Selected Rural Healthcare Facilities in Montana



Data Source(s): data.HRSA.gov,  
U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services, April 2026

Distance and limited specialist access are primary barriers.

Rare diseases reveal difficulties that also affect other rural patients with health conditions.

# Rural Health Transformation Program

- Five-year \$50 Billion federal initiative, 2026–2030
- All 50 states received funding
- Montana received the 4th-largest first-year award nationally at \$233.5 Million
- State-led investments to strengthen rural access, workforce, technology, and care delivery



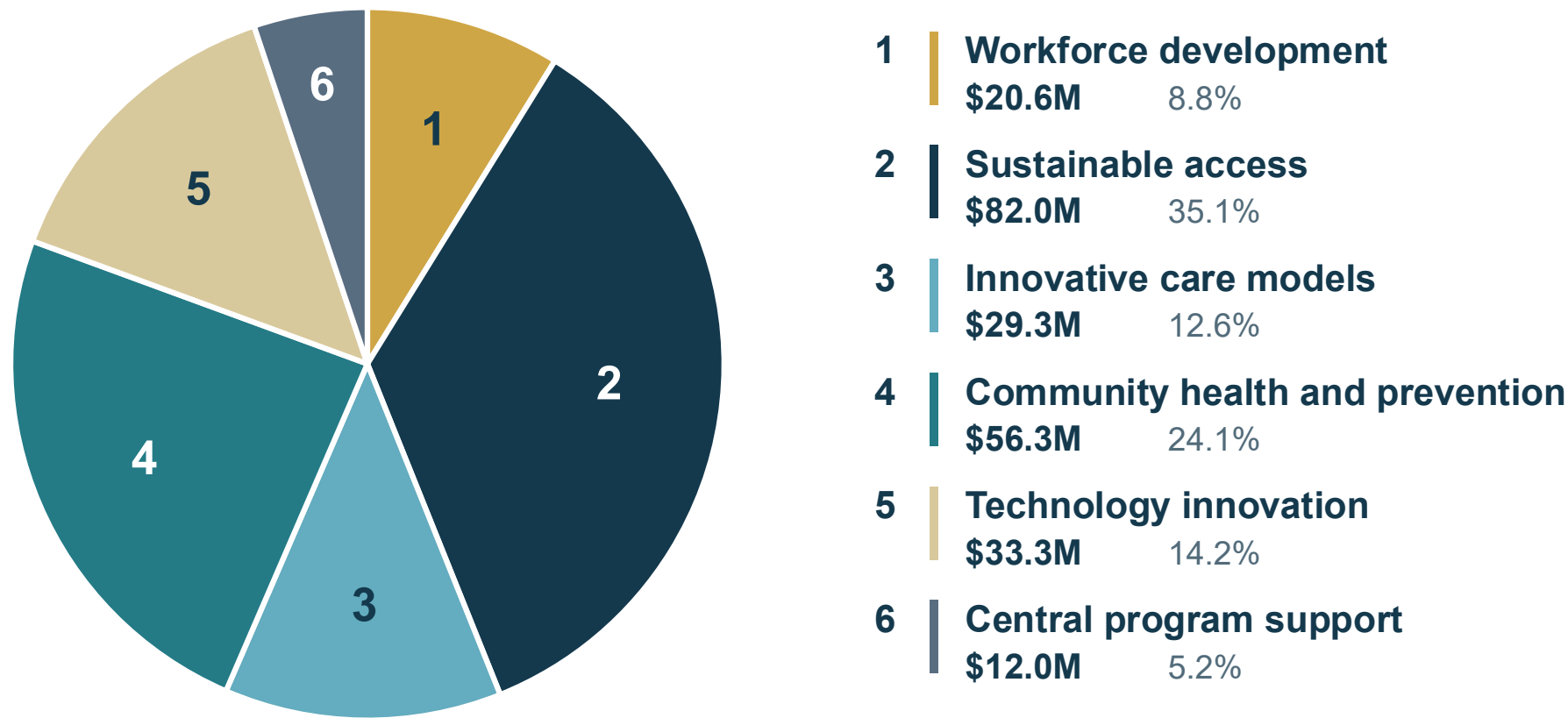
Requests for Applications will post here:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/RuralHealthTransformationProgram/>

# Montana's Year 1 investment areas

FY2026 program allocations

\$233.5 million total



# A request of Faculty Senate

## Help us reach faculty across MSU

We invite interested faculty to meet with RDAC members and the Montana Office of Rural Health to explore rural health project ideas.

- Pat Secor, MSU Microbiology & Cell Biology; [Patrick.secor@montana.edu](mailto:Patrick.secor@montana.edu)
- Michele C. McKinnie, Psy.D., Director of Clinical Training, Big Sky Psychological Consortium, Chair, MT RDAC; [michele@bigskypsychology.com](mailto:michele@bigskypsychology.com)
- Kailyn Mock, Executive Director of Montana Area Health Education Center and Office of Rural Health [kailyn.mock@montana.edu](mailto:kailyn.mock@montana.edu)



# Learning Difference Consultant Visit



**Dr. Carina Beck**

Associate Vice President for  
University Initiatives  
Division of Student Success

# Learning Difference Consultant Visit Update to Faculty Senate

Campus Visit Dates:  
October 20 & 21

## Context Setting...

Think of a student or colleague you know who learns differently.

- What worked in their educational journey?
- What didn't seem to work in that same journey?



# Learning Differences Considerations

- Learning differences are **variations in how individuals take in, process, organize, retain, and communicate information**. They can affect areas such as reading, writing, mathematics, attention, memory, executive functioning, language processing, and sensory processing.
  - The term is intentionally broad and strengths-based. It recognizes that students may learn differently from conventional expectations without implying lower intelligence or ability.
  - Learning differences can include diagnosed conditions such as **dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, ADHD, and certain processing or executive-function differences**, as well as meaningful differences in learning that may not have a formal diagnosis.
-

A **Learning Difference** describes *how a person learns or engages with their learning environment*.

An **ADA accommodation** is a *legal adjustment or support* provided because a person has a qualifying disability.

| Learning Difference                                                                        | ADA Accommodation                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Educational/descriptive concept                                                            | Legal/access concept                                                          |
| May or may not involve a diagnosed disability                                              | Generally, requires a disability that meets legal criteria                    |
| Describes differences in processing, attention, reading, math, executive functioning, etc. | Changes how a student accesses a course, program, test, facility, or activity |
| Can inform good teaching practices for any student                                         | Is an individualized support intended to provide equal access                 |
| Does not automatically create a legal entitlement                                          | May be legally required under the ADA and/or Section 504                      |

# So, What Are We Doing....?

Thanks to the Morelli Family, we've engaged with two consultants to help us learn:

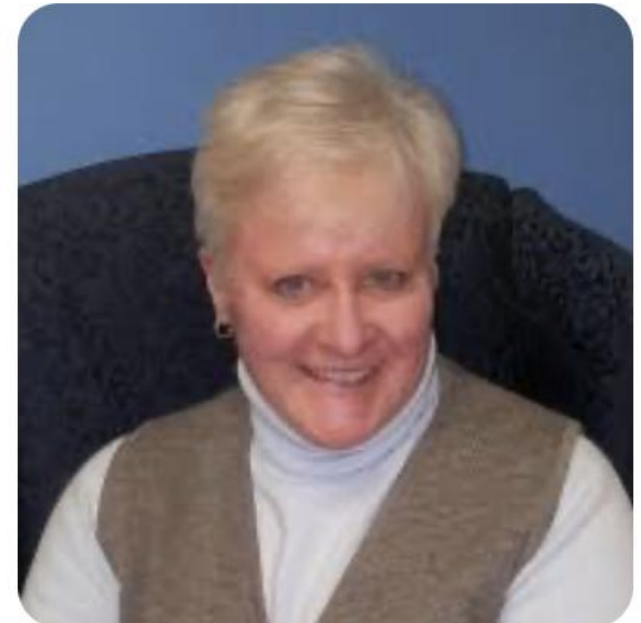
1. **Understand the best practices**, trends, ideas, speedbumps, opportunities that are formulating outside of MSU (aka - lit review or environmental scan).
2. **Survey the campus and broader community** to learn more about supports and opportunities along with weaknesses
3. Help us to structure efforts (**imagine a plan** in concentric circles).
4. Help us **determine partnerships** with external entities.

## Visiting Consultants:

All meetings will be held  
in American Indian Hall  
October 20 & 21



Donell Pons



Tena Versland

As we move forward, we  
want to learn from you!

Please take a short survey  
to help us finalize plans  
for the visit...

[https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/  
KbdUtsKzKL](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/KbdUtsKzKL)



# Data Governance Policy



**Dr. Luke Schalewski**  
Chief Data Officer  
University Data & Analytics

**Dr. Kirk Lubick**  
Associate Vice President  
for Research Integrity &  
Compliance  
VP-RED





# Data Governance Policy

(+ Research Agreement Policy Update)

Luke Schalewski, Chief Data Officer

Kirk Kubick, Associate Vice President for Research Integrity & Compliance

Faculty Senate | 10/14/26



## ONE MSU DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK



### **01 GOVERN DATA AS AN ASSET**

Govern University data as an institutional asset to improve University outcomes.

### **02 TRUSTWORTHY & RESPONSIBLE DATA**

Ensure data and its uses are strategic, accurate, reliable, secure, and accessible while meeting institutional, legal, compliance, and security requirements.

### **03 DATA-INFORMED DECISIONS**

Build understanding of, confidence in, and effective use of data to support informed decision-making.

### **04 SUPPORT & ADVANCE RESEARCH**

Enable appropriate University data ownership responsibilities while protecting privacy, confidentiality, security, and institutional obligations.

# Aligned with other R1s



## 210.00 UNIVERSITY DATA

Data or information created, collected, transmitted, maintained, or managed on behalf of the University, or through University duties or activities. Includes administrative and research data, regardless of format, medium, location, or system.

### 220.00 ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Data created, collected, received, maintained, or used to administer, operate, manage, plan, assess, or report on University programs, services, resources, and activities.

Examples: Student and academic records; admissions and enrollment; financial aid; employee and HR; finance and budgets; facilities; IT; institutional decision-making.

### 230.00 RESEARCH DATA

Recorded factual material commonly accepted in the research community as necessary to validate research findings.

May include numeric data, text, images, audio/video, field notes, transcripts, software, algorithms, models, statistical records, physical samples, metadata, dictionaries, and codebooks. Must meet sponsor, legal, and ethical requirements.

## 300.00 UNIVERSITY DATA OWNERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

The University holds institutional accountability—and, as permitted by law, policy, and applicable agreements, authority—to govern University data under its control or responsibility.

### UNIVERSEY DATA GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

DATA QUALITY

SECURITY

PROTECTION

ACCESS & SHARING

RETENTION

DISPOSAL

Research data is distinct from BOR and MSU intellectual property; other policies govern IP rights.

Responsibilities are carried out through designated officials, researchers, data stewards, custodians, and campus.



**CAMPUS DATA  
GOVERNANCE EFFORTS  
(COUNCILS, RESEARCH  
COMPLIANCE, PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATORS)**

Drives collaboration and data  
management, sharing, and use

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE AT MSU BOZEMAN?

### DATA GOVERNANCE & STRATEGY COUNCIL

Executive sponsors, data stewards, data custodians, and IT leads provide coordination and governance oversight.

### RESEARCHERS AS DATA STEWARDS

Researchers steward research data under their control.

### UNIVERSITY OFFICES & RESEARCH SUPPORT

UIT; University Data & Analytics (UDA); Research Security; Research Integrity & Compliance; and other Research & Economic Development (RED) initiatives.

# A clear framework for research agreements

Established in 2024 to guide when and how internal and external research partners use institutional agreements.

## POLICY PURPOSE

Clarifies available agreement types and when they should be used.

Connects agreement templates, approval requirements, and institutional obligations.

## HOW THE POLICY OPERATES

100.00 Introduction, templates & F&A rates

200.00 Signatory authority

300.00 Agreements governed by policy

400.00 Contracts made in violation of policy

## Seven agreement types in the current policy

Use the appropriate agreement to document the relationship, responsibilities, and permitted activity.

**DUA**

**Data Use Agreement**

**MTA**

**Material Transfer Agreement**

**MOU**

**Memorandum of Understanding**

**NDA**

**Non-Disclosure Agreement**

**RCA**

**Research Collaboration Agreement**

**SRA**

**Sponsored Research Agreement**

**TSA**

**Testing Services Agreement**

# Extend the policy across all four MSU campuses

Proposed revisions clarify local oversight and signature authority while expanding agreement coverage.

## FOUR-CAMPUS APPLICATION

- Make this a four-campus policy
- Identify appropriate compliance and oversight offices at each campus
- Define signatory authority for each campus

## TWO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

- 01 Facility Use Agreement
- 02 Service Agreement

Proposed change: broader policy coverage, with campus-specific implementation responsibilities.

## Questions & Discussion

### Next Steps:

Final feedback and edits

University Council First Read 11/4

University Council Vote 12/2

# Commonly Asked Questions

## Is this a new compliance burden?

No. It clarifies shared responsibilities for quality, security, access, retention, sharing, and disposal. Existing legal and sponsor requirements still apply.

## Is a Data Use Agreement now required for all sharing?

No. Blanket requirement is not included here. The Research Agreement Policy describes agreement types; the appropriate agreement depends on the activity and obligations.

## Does it supersede grants, contracts, or law?

No. Applicable laws, tribal agreements, sponsor terms, contracts, and BOR and MSU policies continue to govern where relevant.

## Does “University ownership” mean central control?

No. It establishes university accountability. PIs and research leads continue day-to-day research data stewardship, subject to applicable obligations.

## Can researchers still access their data?

Yes. Access remains essential for research within university security, privacy, agreements, and applicable standards.

## Does the policy take over campus decisions?

No. The policy provides a shared framework while enabling local governance, stewardship, and operational decisions.

# Old Business: Guidelines for Review of Center Proposals – Second Reading

- Redlined draft provided with agenda updated from first-reading comments
- Senate discussion and vote

# Council and Committee Updates

# Graduate Council

# University Council

- Approved Student Accommodations and Appeals Policy upon second reading
- Approved Personal Care Attendant Policy upon second reading
- First reading of University Sponsored Program for Children and Youth Policy

# Academic Council

- Discussion of stand-alone Certificates, to initiate exploration of developing a system and policy for them. Council unanimously gave approval of this exploration.

# Research Council

- Received an update on FY26 State of Research (which will be delivered to Senate directly later this semester)
- Received an update on the Innovation Campus
- Received an update on Undergraduate Research initiatives
- Presentation of updated Restricted Research Policy, which specifies procedures the university needs to use to be involved with any research that is classified or gives an organization other than the university priority in determining publication or other circulation of research. The updated policy will be presented to Senate directly later this semester.

# Provost Search Committee

- Position Profile has been finalized
- It and other updates on the Provost search can be found at <https://www.montana.edu/provost/search/>

# Senate Open Discussion

# Public Comment

(Two minutes per person)

# Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Second?

Next regular meeting: **September 30, 2026**