

Information Security in the Montana University System

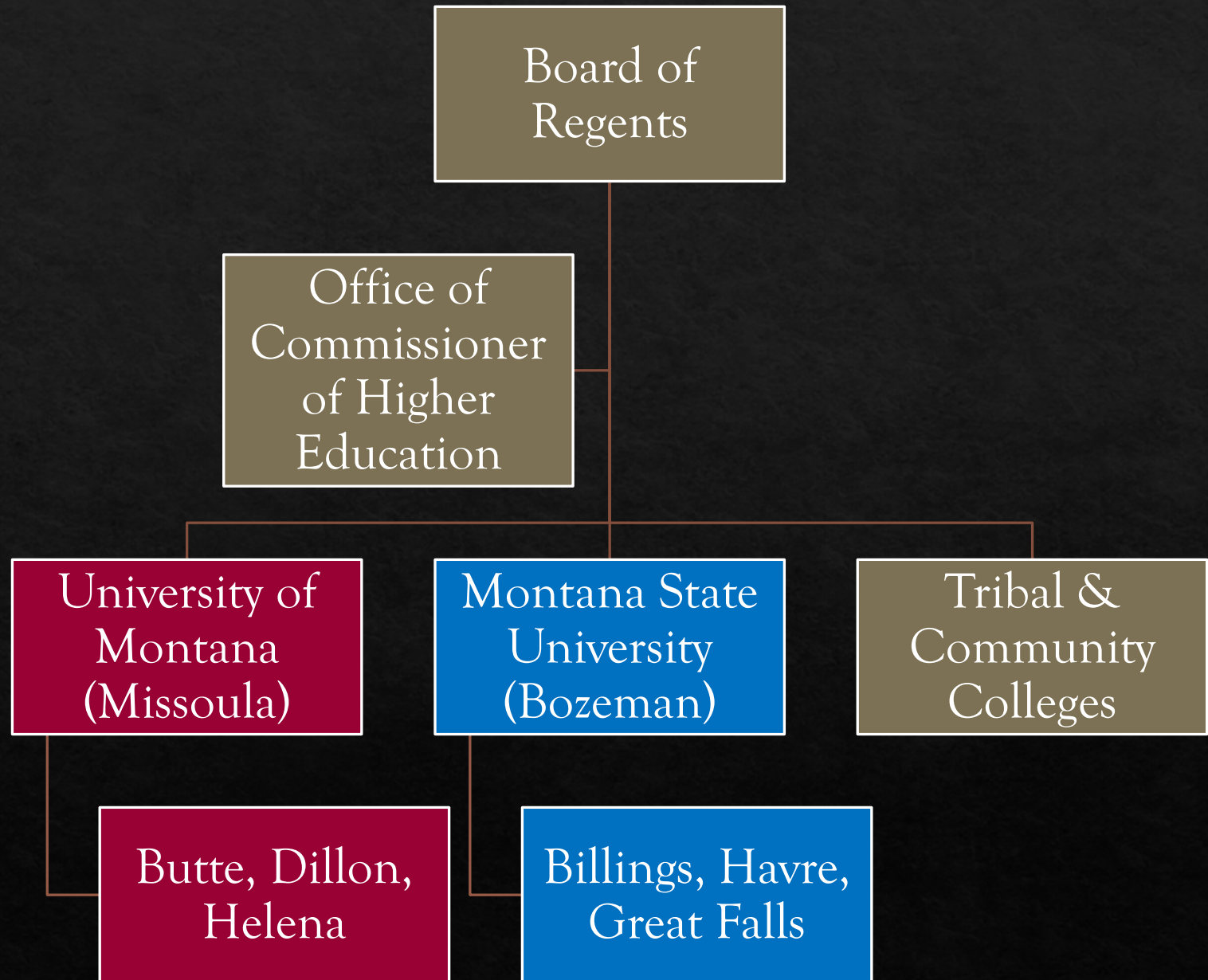
Miki Cestnik

IS Audit Manager

April 26, 2022

Montana University System

- Two major units within the system (**UM** & **MSU**) that include a flagship campus and affiliate campuses
- Governed by the Board
- Administered by OCHE





Student Data
FERPA



Employee Data



Intellectual Property



Research Data
Federal Certification
based on NIST



Personal Health Data
HIPAA



Federal Contract Data
Federal Certification
based on NIST



Financial Data
Payment Card Industry
Student Financial Aid

Information Security within Higher Education

Federal Regulations to protect certain types of data

Information Security in Montana

Executive Branch

Governance & Administration

- State Law defines **WHAT** agencies are required to do
- **DOA & SITSD** determine **WHAT** needs to happen to follow law (Policy)

Management

- Agency determines **HOW** to follow law and policy

Montana Information Technology Act (MITA) excludes University System.

Montana University System

Governance & Administration

- State Law defines **WHAT** the MUS is required to do
- **Board and OCHE** determine **WHAT** needs to happen to follow law (Policy)

Management

- University determines **HOW** to follow law and board policy

However, law requires the Board to ensure state security laws are followed



Scope and Objectives

Risk Management procedures at the two major university campuses

- ◊ How mature is risk management?
- ◊ How is risk management improving the security program?

Security Governance established by the Board and OCHE

- ◊ Does it provide guidance?
- ◊ Does it create accountability?
- ◊ Is there internal review?

Universities need direction & guidance to assess risks and improve security programs

Board of Regents

2 Recommendations

Stronger board policy and direction

University of Montana

1 Recommendation

Formalize security responsibilities
IT risk assessment

Montana State University

1 Recommendation

IT risk assessment

Risk Management is More than Assessing Risks



WHAT IS THE
STRATEGY?



WHAT ARE THE
CURRENT RISKS?

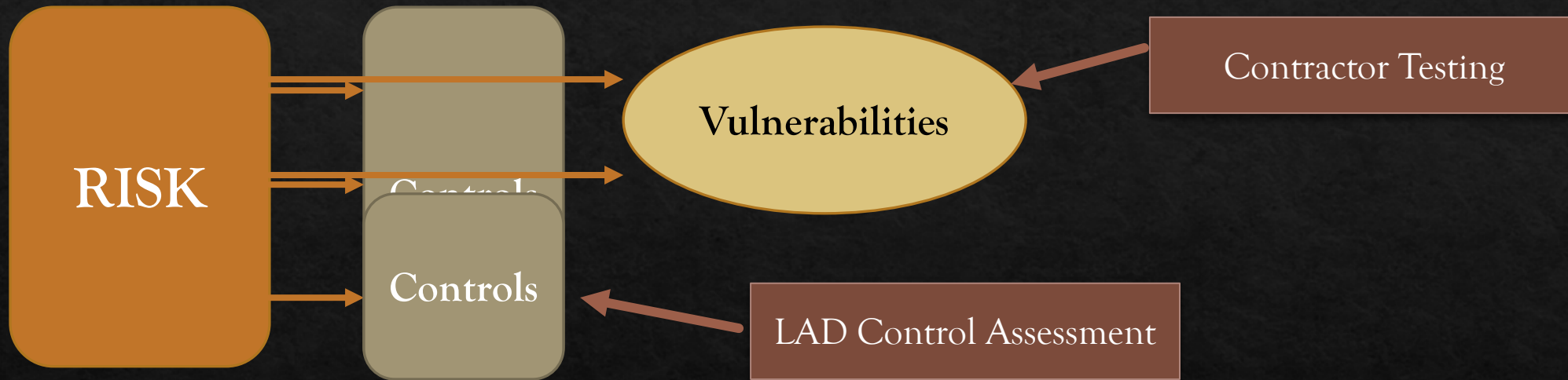


WHAT SHOULD
WE DO?

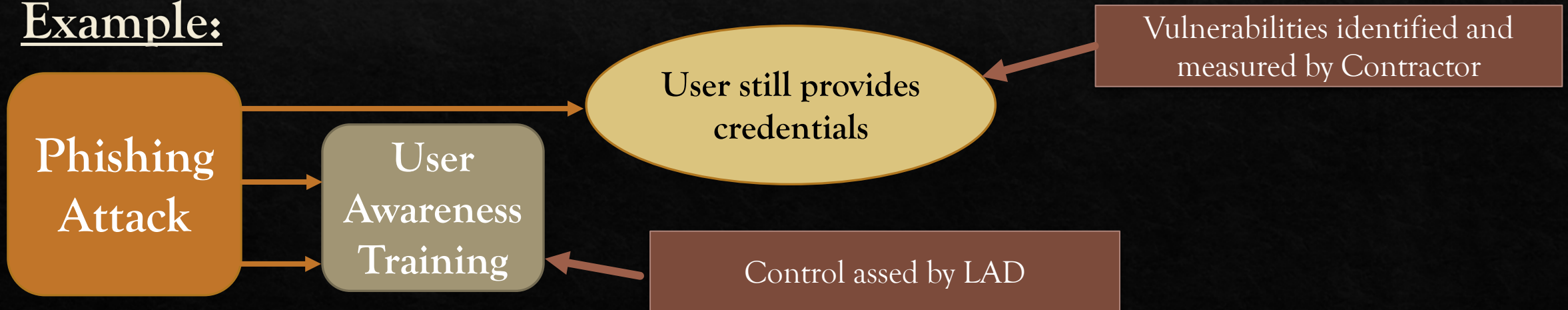


IS THAT
WORKING?

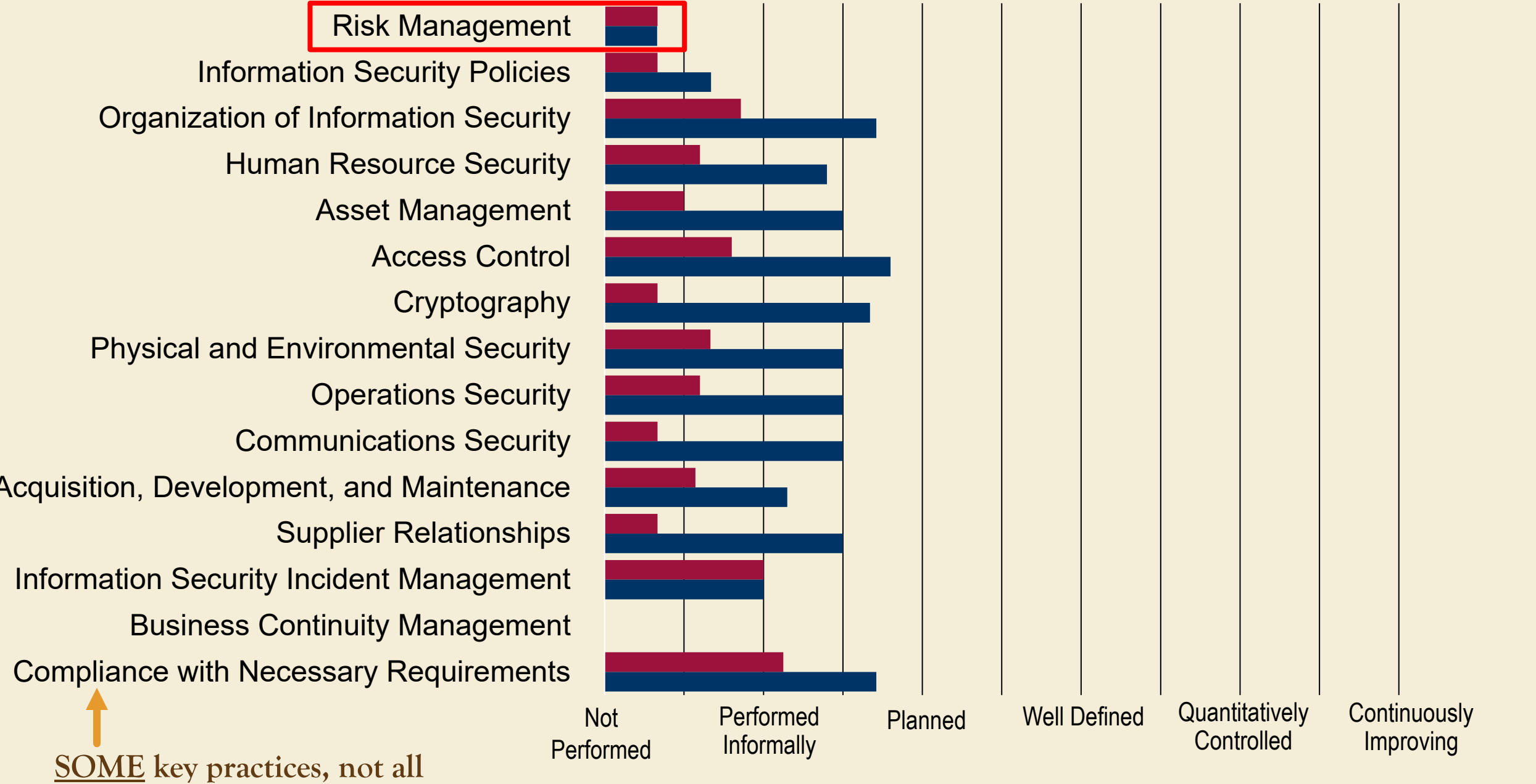
Audit Methodologies



Example:



LAD Assessment Results for University of Montana & Montana State University



Each Campus Faces Risks without Improvement

The effects of the current security programs are starting to happen and more have the potential of occurring without action

What we see now...

- Increased costs for insurance
- Future funding challenges
- Federal Non-Compliance

What else could happen?

- Security Incidents
- Service disruptions

Frameworks are Needed to Guide Security Programs

WHAT

Law required the board ensure data security throughout the MUS

Board Policy doesn't further define what, only suggests a NIST framework where appropriate



HOW

Universities have to define WHAT and HOW

Recommendation 1

Board Policy:

- ✓ Adopt a framework or set of frameworks
- ✓ Reviewed continuously
- ✓ Coordinated effort

Each University Has to Maintain Their Security Program

University of Montana

- ◇ Staffing challenges
- ◇ Role and responsibility definition
- ◇ IT risk management is informal

Recommendation 2

- ✓ Formalize security staff responsibilities
- ✓ Complete a comprehensive IT risk assessment to develop strategies and budgets to make progress

Montana State University

- ◇ No formal guidance
- ◇ Missing a structured approach
- ◇ IT risk assessments have been focused and not continuous

Recommendation 3

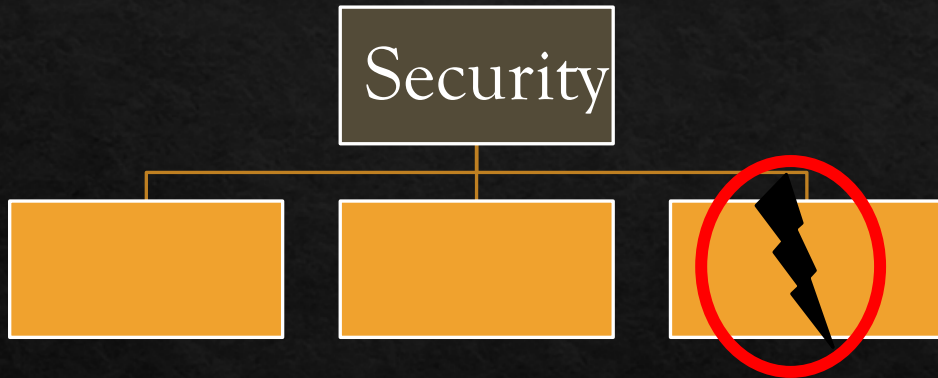
- ✓ Complete a comprehensive IT risk assessment to formalize the approach of the security program

Security Governance



No Clear “Right Way”

Centralized



CONSIDERATIONS:

Independent Budgets & Resources
Avoid one-size-fits all

Decentralized



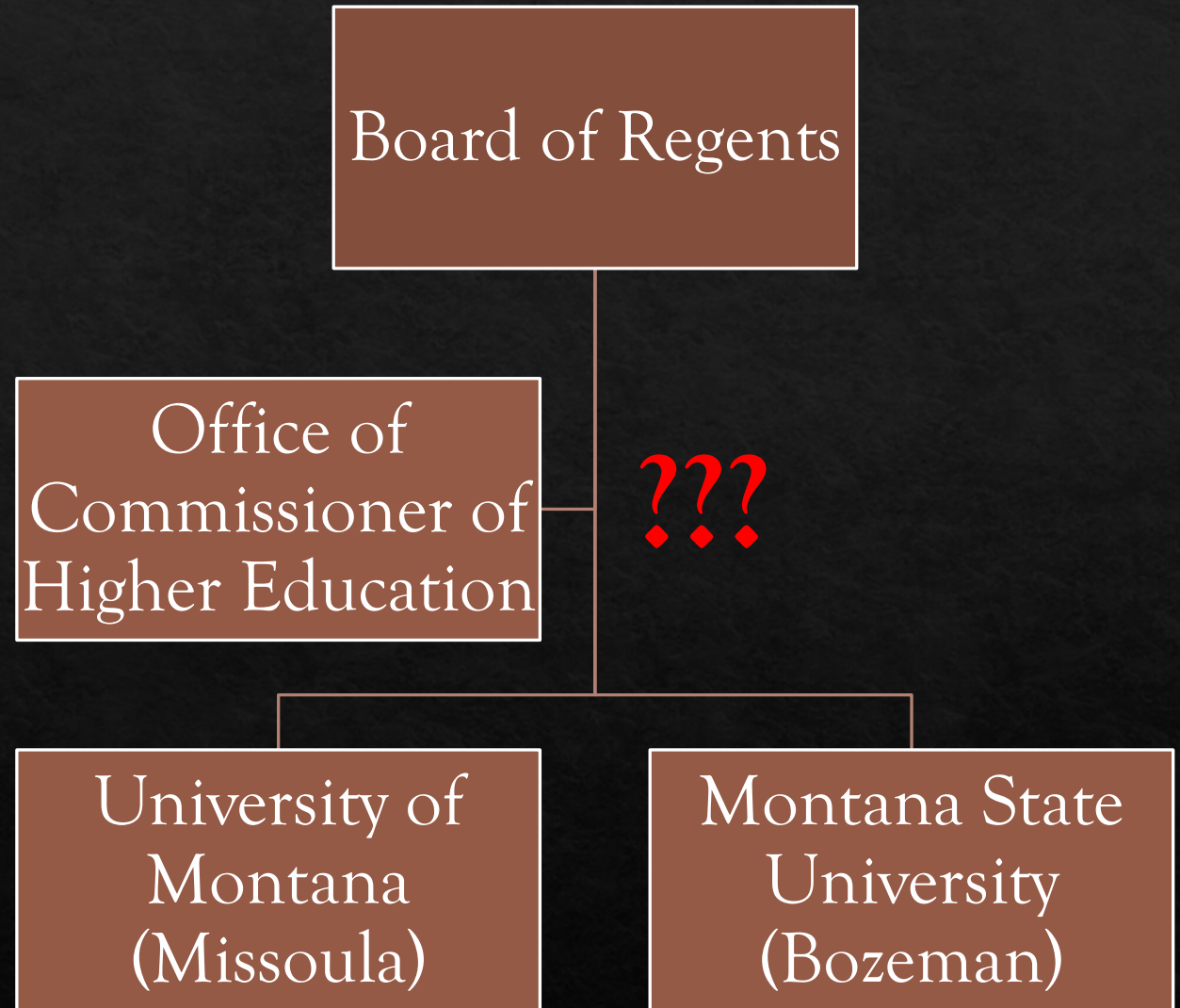
CONSIDERATIONS:

Prevent Silos
Share Information

Security Programs Need Clear Roles & Boundaries

Recommendation 4

- ✓ Define OCHE's role
- ✓ Security policy meets state requirements
- ✓ Roles, Responsibilities, and Authority
- ✓ Communication



Everyone Plays a Role in Information Security

