

September 19 – 21, 2007

ITEM 136-104-R0907

Compliance Report on Board of Regents' Policy 301.12, Undergraduate Degree Requirements: Associate Degrees and Certificates of Applied Science

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education requires that all Associate degrees and Certificate of Applied Science degrees in the Montana University System must be in compliance with Policy 301.12, or receive an exception to that Policy, by the March 2008 Board of Regents' meeting; and

The Board of Regents of Higher Education places all programs that have not complied with the above-stated requirement in moratorium at the May 2008 meeting until they are in compliance or have been granted an exception.

EXPLANATION:

In May 2005, the Board of Regents adopted Policy 301.12 as part of its response to the Legislative performance audit on transfer practices in the Montana University System. That policy establishes credit limits and time limits for associate degrees and certificate of applied science degrees. It also establishes guidelines for the appropriate mix of occupational and general education coursework in the degree programs. The Policy also recognizes that an exception may be appropriate in some circumstances, and establishes procedures for the approval of such an exception.

The campuses in the Montana University System have had more than two years to rework their associate degrees and certificates of applied science so they comply with the expectations of Policy 301.12. The Two-Year Education Council has played a leadership role in that effort. But despite the best efforts, and the repeated pleas, of the Council to complete this work, some programs are still out of compliance.

Both the Council and staff members in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education think that it is time to establish a deadline for the completion of this work; and, perhaps more importantly, that it is appropriate to establish a significant consequence if the work is not

completed by that deadline. The deadline and the proposed consequence are set out above.

The programs that are currently out of compliance with Policy 301.12, and have not been granted an exception to the Policy, are listed in the memorandum attached to this Item.