

ITEM 136-105-R0907

Revisions to Montana Board of Regents' Policy 711.3, Pilot Program for Multiple-Year Contracts for Non-Tenure Track Faculty

THAT:

The Board of Regents approves the attached revisions to Policy 711.3. The most important revisions:

- 1) Make the concept of multiple-year contracts for non-tenure track faculty an operating principle in the Montana University System.
- 2) Remove any language from the Policy concerning its temporary or pilot status.
- 3) Extend the multiple-year contract period to a maximum of five years, from the three years that were permitted during the pilot phase.

EXPLANATION:

The Montana Board of Regents authorized multiple-year contracts for non-tenure track faculty positions in January 2005. Only one campus, Montana State University-Bozeman, utilized the contract option during the pilot period. The program was so successful, in Montana State University-Bozeman's opinion, that the Board of Regents is now being asked to make the policy a standing practice in the System.

The Board was asked to consider this change in 2005, to insure some stability and predictability of employment for adjunct and part-time faculty, especially when those faculty members are talented teachers and they work in positions that are hard to fill.

The item includes supporting documentation from Montana State University-Bozeman concerning its use of the contracts during the pilot period. Representatives from that institution are in attendance at the meeting, and will be happy to answer any questions the Board might have.

The revisions are supported by the staff in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

ATTACHMENTS:

Revised Policy 711.3