

# COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## PROGRAMS 01, 03, 06, 08, 11, 12, 13

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### WHAT THE AGENCY DOES

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education is the state-level administrative organization of the Montana University System (MUS).

### Statutory Authority For Agency

The Montana Constitution, Article X, Section 9, grants governance authority over the Montana University System to the Board of Regents, with seven members appointed by the Governor. The Constitution charges the Board with hiring a Commissioner of Higher Education, who serves as its executive officer.

### HOW SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

Program 01 – Administration Program. The administration program includes: 1) general administration of the University System, 2) academic, financial, and legal administration, 3) labor relations and personnel administration, and 4) student assistance administration.

Program 03 – Improving Teacher Quality. This program is a federal grant program aimed at upgrading teaching skills of teachers in math and science.

Program 06 – Talent Search. This program is primarily a federally-funded program to decrease the dropout rate of disadvantaged students in high schools and increase their enrollment in post-secondary education.

Program 08 – Work Force Development. The Commissioner of Higher Education and the Office of Public Instruction coordinate the primarily federal efforts to support vocational education at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

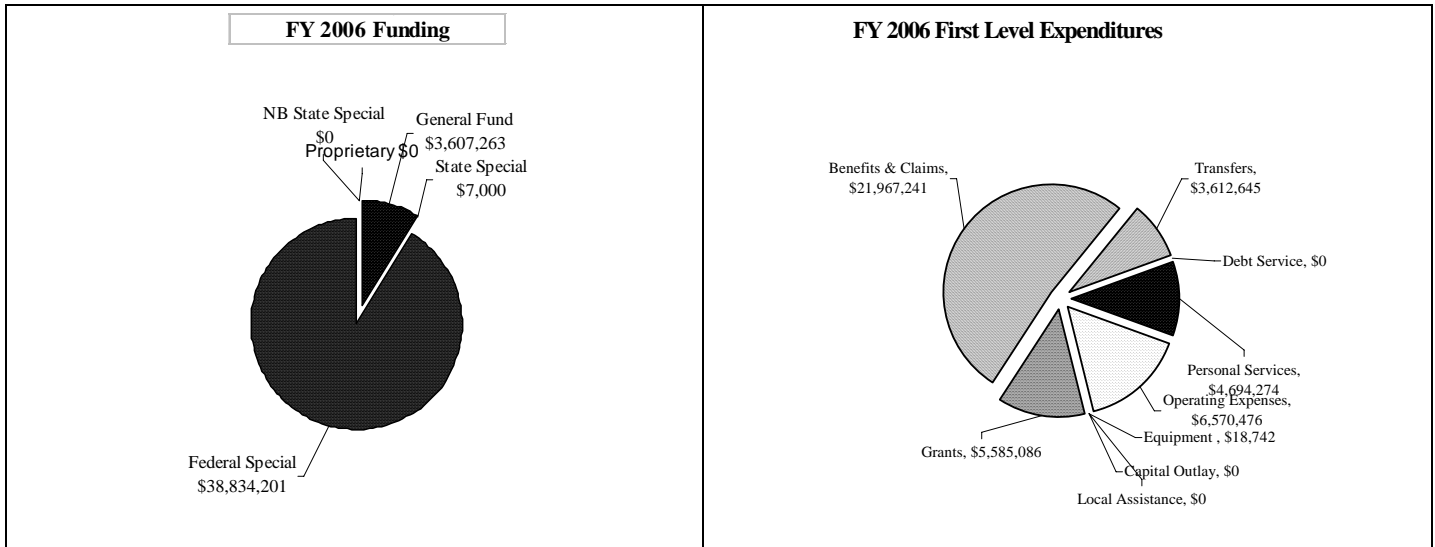
Program 11 – Tribal College Assistance. This program provides non-beneficiary student assistance to the tribal colleges in Montana.

Program 12 – Montana Guaranteed Student Loan. The Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGSLP) operates under federal regulation to guarantee federal student loans. MGSLP purchases and services student loans that have been defaulted, works to prevent default, collects outstanding principal from defaulted loans and provides training and technical assistance to schools and lenders under Title 20, Chapter 26, MCA.

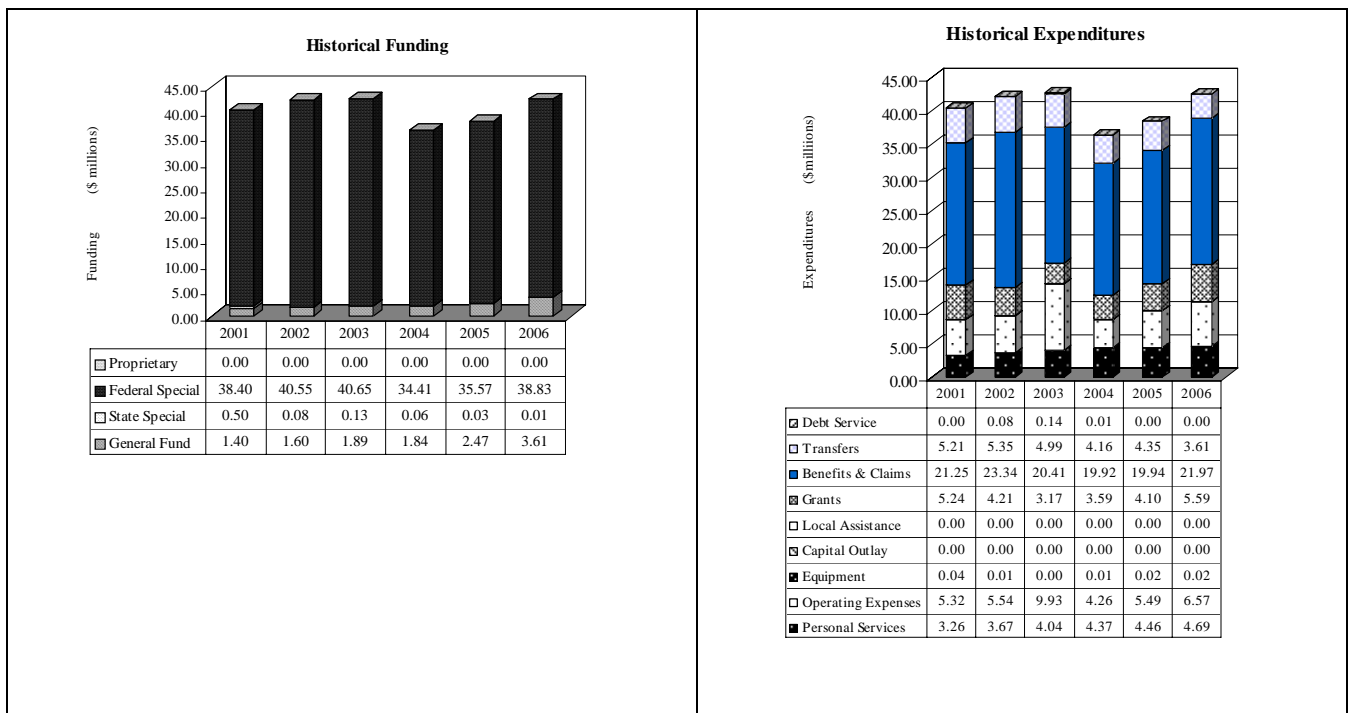
Program 13 – Board of Regents Administration. The Board of Regents program provides travel, per diem, and operating expenses for the members of the Board

# SPENDING AND FUNDING INFORMATION

The following figures show funding and expenditure information for FY 2006 for all sources of funding of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Programs 01, 03, 06, 08, 11, 12, 13.



The following figures show funding and expenditures from FY 2001 through FY 2006, for HB 2 funding.



# 2007 BIENNIUM NEW PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRAM EXPANSION

## Program Expansion

Legislatively approved expansions for the 2007 biennium included an \$800,000 increase in non-beneficiary student assistance to tribal colleges and a \$20 million increase in federal authority for Montana Guaranteed Student Loan claim activity.

## FTE

The legislature approved appropriations for an additional 9.00 FTE in the 2007 Biennium. The following figure shows the positions and hire dates for the new FTE. The approved positions for the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program have not been filled because of uncertainty regarding federal funding issues.

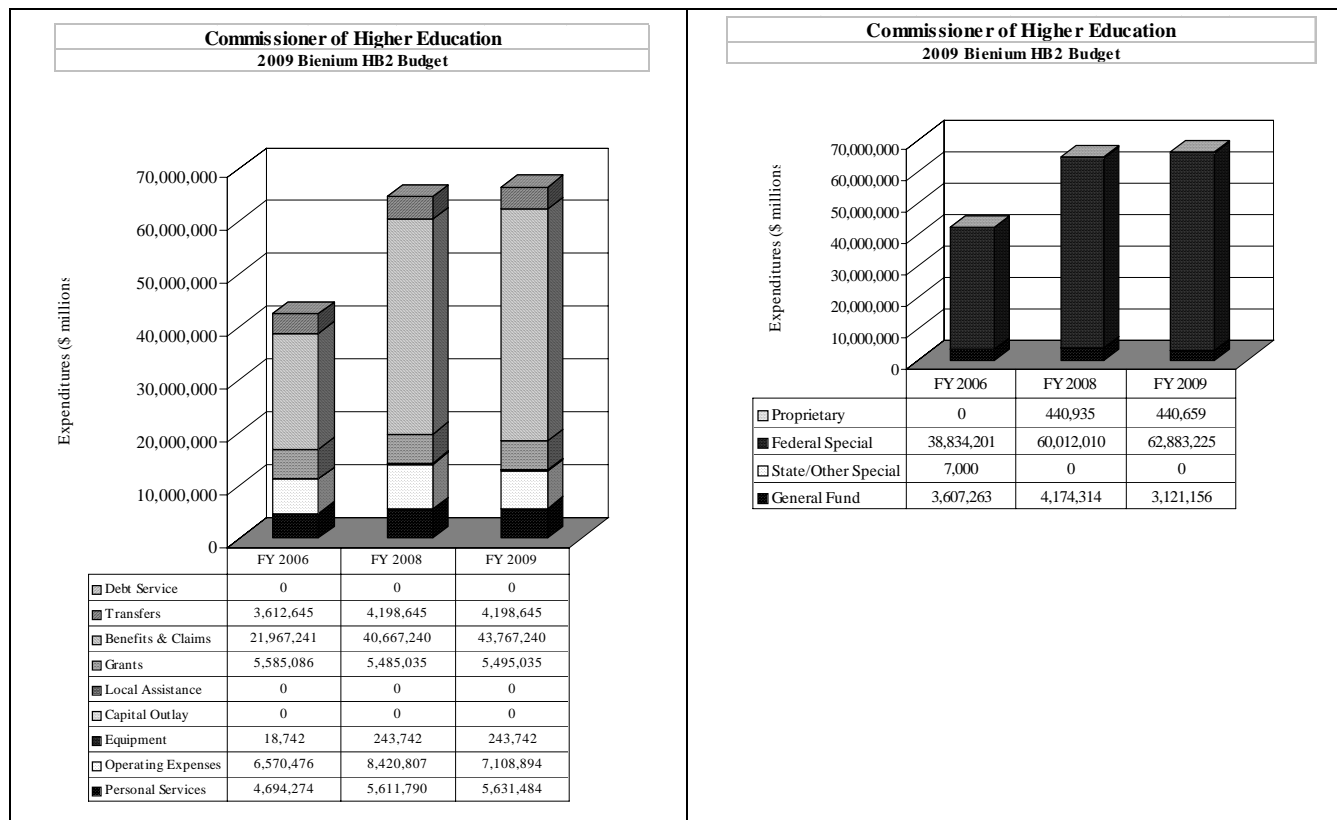
2007 Biennium FTE Hire Dates	FTE	Date
51280002 Federal Accountant – GEAR UP	.5	07/01/05
51200071 Admin Specialist – Family Education Savings	.5	Not filled
51212010 GSL	.5	Not filled
51212907 GSL	1.0	Not filled
51212908 GSL	1.0	Not filled
51212909 GSL	1.0	Not filled
51212910 GSL	1.0	Not filled
51212911 GSL	1.0	Not filled
51212912 GSL	1.0	Not filled
51212904 GSL	1.0	Not filled

## Corrective Action Plans

The most recent Legislative audit for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education contained two legislative audit recommendations. The recommendations addressed the issue of proper accounting for indirect costs and the improper use of University Designated Subfunds. Correction action on both recommendations has been implemented.

## 2009 BIENNIUM BUDGET

The following figures show the proposed HB 2 budget for the 2009 biennium.



## Goals and Measurable Objectives

The following figure shows the Board of Regents/Montana University System goals and objectives that are associated with the proposed 2009 biennium HB 2 budget.

Board of Regents/Montana University System Strategic Plan		
Measurable Objectives for the 2009 Biennium		
Goal	Measurable Objectives	Current status of Measures
Goal I – Increase educational attainment of all Montanans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Prepare students for success through quality higher education</li> <li>2) Offer more need-based aid and scholarships</li> <li>3) Promote postsecondary education affordability</li> <li>4) Work collaboratively with the K-12 system</li> <li>5) Increase enrollment of traditional and non-traditional students</li> <li>6) Improve distance and on-line learning</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Focus upon entry rates, retention rates, and completion rates</li> <li>2) Support full funding and expansion of Governor’s scholarship program</li> <li>3) Supporting Governor’s College Affordability Program (CAP)</li> <li>4) Outreach, increase dual enrollment, increase high school grad rates</li> <li>5) Increase enrollment in two year and non-traditional programs</li> <li>6) System initiative to support coordination of e-learning</li> </ol>
Goal II – Assist in the expansion and improvement of the economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Increase responsiveness to workforce development</li> <li>2) Expand research and technology transfer</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) System initiatives to invest in high demand programs</li> <li>2) Increases emphasis on research activities and technology transfer activities</li> </ol>
Goal III – Improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Improve data systems</li> <li>2) Deliver efficient and coordinated services</li> <li>3) Reconstruct the budget allocation model</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) System initiative to invest in data system</li> <li>2) System initiative to address transferability</li> <li>3) 2007 Biennial review of budget allocation methodology nearing completion</li> </ol>

## BUDGET AND POLICY ISSUES

The following budget or policy issues are included in the (department, division, program) budget submission to the Governor’s Office.

Major Montana University System initiatives in the Administration budget include: 1) \$1.5 million to improve transferability and student data and 2) \$900,000 to coordinate and enhance distance learning. The Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program has requested \$40 million of increased federal authority for potential claim payments and payment of default collection recoveries

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES EXPANDED

Not applicable.