

July 10, 2008

**ITEM 140-2004-R0708      Approval to Establish an Aerospace Minor; Montana State University-Bozeman**

**THAT:**                              The Board of Regents of Higher Education Authorizes Montana State University-Bozeman to Establish an Aerospace Minor.

**EXPLANATION:**                The Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Montana State University requests authorization to establish a Minor in Aerospace. The need for the Aerospace Minor at MSU in Bozeman is compelling, and long overdue. MSU has traditionally been the second or third supplier of engineers and engineering technologists to the Boeing Company in Seattle. Students work as undergraduates in MSU's Space Science and Engineering Laboratory and the Aerospace Minor will formalize the academic experience for these students. MSU has sponsored research from the US Air Force, NASA, DOE (on aerospace related topics such as Wind Energy and Fuel Cells). MSU has a very active Air Force ROTC program, which is housed in the College of Engineering. The Aerospace Minor will provide explicit support of their needs. The Mechanical Engineering program at MSU has been keeping excellent records regarding the job placement of its graduates. Approximately 1/3 of MSU Bozeman's BSME graduates over the past 10+ years find jobs in aerospace or a closely related field. In fact, the department consistently receives inquiries from current students, prospective students and parents regarding the availability of an aerospace minor. MSU has a substantial number of courses, research, and presence in aerospace and closely related disciplines.

Mature and new faculty have an extensive background in aerospace engineering and science, and many courses are taught with an emphasis on aerospace applications. No new courses or course development are needed to initiate the minor. No additional faculty resources are needed to implement the Aerospace Minor.