January 7, 2009

ITEM 142-2001-R0109 **Master of Science in Health Sciences, MSU-Bozeman**

THAT: The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University Bozeman to establish a Master of Science Degree in Health Sciences

EXPLANATION: The proposed Master of Science Degree Program in Health Sciences will be managed through the Division of Health Sciences, Montana State University-Bozeman. The intent of this program is to provide students with a broad-based graduate education that can be applied to any of several career paths in the health care field. This program would support and formalize the educational endeavors of MSU graduates, Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate students, and non-certificate students who attend MSU to better prepare for entrance into healthcare-related professional schools. In addition, a Master's degree in Health Sciences, with an emphasis on health-related topics, will also be useful for students seeking direct employment in the health care system and in the state of Montana.

The proposed program will be a Plan B Master of Science degree requiring a minimum of 30 credits from a list of recommended courses and culminating in a scholarly project, to be completed within a calendar year. Briefly, the proposed Master of Science program will effectively be a 1+1 design, where students qualifying for the Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate program will enter under a 2-year plan. These students will take the professional school prerequisite courses during the first year, as they currently do, and earn the Certificate. These same students can then declare an emphasis and continue into the second year, pursuing the flexible schedule and broad-reaching course availability to complete the 30 credits necessary for the Master in Science degree. Additionally, students who have a solid science background, and thus do not qualify for the Certificate program, can be eligible to enter directly into the one year Master of Science Program. The prerequisites for the proposed Master of Science degree will be such that we ensure students have a substantial foundation in the basic sciences and in more applied health-related areas.