

From: Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman
To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Level II items that are being proposed for your review and action at the March 2019 meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and community colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

Montana State University Bozeman

Master of Science in Dietetic Systems Leadership

To become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) an individual must successfully complete an accredited program in dietetics along with an accredited internship program; in 2024 the individual will also need an M.S. degree to be eligible to sit for the credentialing exam. Currently MSU - Bozeman offers a 12-credit non-degree dietetic internship. In preparation for these licensing requirements, MSU - Bozeman is requesting authorization to supplement their existing internship with a 27-credit online Master of Science in Dietetic Systems Leadership. No other MUS campus offers a program preparing students to become registered dietitian nutritionist.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Bachelor of Science in Ranching Systems

MSU - Bozeman requests authorization to offer a Bachelor of Science in Ranching Systems. The structure of this degree program is informed by a survey of Montana 168 stockgrowers and ranching stakeholders. The program will leverage existing coursework in animal production, natural resource management, economics and business, and will seek to also develop applied skills, communication skills and critical thinking via opportunities for experiential and hands-on learning. A new program leader will be hired using support from a university endowment. Currently, no other campus in the MUS offers a bachelors level program focused on ranch management. Miles Community College does offer an Associate of Science degree in Livestock Management. MSU - Northern and UM - Western have expressed interest in developing new degree programs related to equine science or farm and ranch management.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Retitle the Division of Agricultural Education from 'Division' to 'Department'

Currently the Agricultural Education group at MSU – Bozeman is termed a 'Division'. This name no longer accurately reflects the operations of this group, which acts like a 'Department' within the College of Agriculture. The proposed retitling will bring the title into alignment with the current functional operation of the group and the BOR recognized terminology.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana State University Northern

Plumber/Pipefitter A.A.S.

MSU-Northern request permanent authorization to offer an A.A.S. degree in Plumbing/Pipefitting. This program educates students in all aspects of welding and provide a background in plumbing, equipping students to work in a refinery, on a pipeline, or in an industrial complex. MSU-Northern was granted temporary authorization to grant this degree in 2017, and the program has been well subscribed to date. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters is projected to grow 16 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. In Montana, these occupations are projected to grow 19%, leading to an estimated 310 annual openings. The MSU-Northern A.A.S. degree combines existing coursework in welding and plumbing. MSU-Northern is the only MUS campus to teach both welding and plumbing technology.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Retitle the College of Education, Arts & Sciences, and Nursing (CEASN) to the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education (CASE)

MSU-Northern created a new College of Health Sciences in 2017, at which time several health-related programs exited the College of Education, Arts & Sciences, and Nursing. The new name more accurately reflects the programs and departments in the college.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

The University of Montana Missoula:

MAJORS/MINORS/OPTIONS/CERTIFICATES

Accounting Fundamentals C.A.S

This C.A.S. is designed to meet needs of local/regional employers who have indicated they would be willing to hire graduates who possess cursory accounting knowledge, are tech savvy, and have a solid set of communication/soft skills. All the courses needed for the C.A.S. are currently a part of the Business Technology Department curriculum and are degree requirements in Missoula College's existing A.A.S. – Accounting Technology.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Ethics minor

The Philosophy Department at UM-Missoula seeks to create an interdisciplinary Ethics Minor. Students will complete six ethics/value courses (18 credits) from a list of courses currently taught at UM. Tailored to students majoring in other disciplines, UM's Ethics Minor is designed to enhance the capacities of critical thinking, social engagement, and reflection on major moral issues.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics

The Linguistics Program at UM is the only program offering degrees in linguistics. Currently, only an MA and a minor are offered. Students who wish to pursue linguistics at the bachelor's degree level have been advised to major in Anthropology or English and study linguistics as an option. UM Students whose interest is to pursue linguistics report being dissatisfied with these options because either requires students take several non-linguistics courses. As a result, these students are often less prepared for advanced linguistics study or the workforce. The proposed program uses only existing courses at UM.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Musical Theatre Performance option in the Theatre BFA

The University of Montana's School of Theatre & Dance and the School of Music propose to combine existing coursework in both Schools into an interdisciplinary option in "Musical Theatre Performance" under the existing BFA in Theatre. The university, in anticipation of this proposal, filled a vacant faculty line with a musical theatre specialist and has redesigned its acting curriculum to offer existing programs efficiently in tandem with a musical theatre option. The program will be delivered using faculty and courses already offered at the university. No related program at the bachelor's level exists in Montana.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Communicative Sciences and Disorders Leveling Certificate

The University of Montana's Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) has offered a Communicative Sciences and Disorders Post-Baccalaureate Leveling Program as a non-degree offering for two years with healthy enrollment. The program provides students who did not complete their first degree in CSD with the foundational knowledge in the areas of speech, language, and hearing development in order to be eligible to apply to graduate programs of speech-language pathology and audiology. They are proposing to formalize this program into a certificate so that students in the program can receive financial aid and receive a recognized credential upon completion. The certificate has been designed to be integrated with the proposed Speech Language Pathology Audiology Assistant Certificate.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Speech Language Pathology Audiology Assistant Certificate

The University of Montana's Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) proposes a Speech-Language Pathology (SLP)– Audiology Assistant Certificate (online/face-to-face, 39 credits). The US Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that demand for SPA assistants will grow faster than most occupations between now and 2026, with an average of 40 annual job openings in Montana. The department has worked with the Montana Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (the state licensing board), the Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education, the Montana Speech Language Hearing Association, and the Montana Office of Public Instruction to develop the proposed curriculum and ensure the program provides a useful career track toward a position in the Montana public school system. The program is designed to be offered both online and face-to-face. UM

anticipates most enrolled students will attend online. Most courses in the proposed curriculum are already offered online or face-to-face in UM's Communicative Sciences and Disorders Post-Baccalaureate Leveling Program. No similar program exists at other Montana campuses.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

RESEARCH CENTERS or INSTITUTES

Establish the Montana Youth Sports Safety Institute

The proposed Montana Youth Sports Safety Institute aims to meet a need for research, advocacy, and training in sport safety for youth sports organizations in Montana. The institute would develop policy advice, needs analyses, and trainings to improve safety in youth sports within Montana's more than 150 youth sports organizations.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Establish the Center for Population Health Research

The proposed Center for Population Health Research will support approaches for identifying, modifying and testing interventions applicable to the health of children residing in rural communities, adhering to social, ecological, environmental, behavioral and resource contexts that are both understudied and distinct from urban health contexts. The Center's goals are to (a) support a critical mass of Montana researchers to address rural children's health issues; and to (b) establish research support cores that provide Center investigators with state-of-the-art technical tools and outreach and knowledge translation support to expand opportunities for effective rural-oriented research. There are few federally-funded research centers focused on rural health, and none in the West region that focus on prevention research for rural children's health. The center is seeking a Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) award through the National Institutes of Health to support start-up costs as the center builds a grant portfolio that can provide sustained support.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

RETITLING, CONSOLIDATING, or REORGANIZATING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS or UNITS

Retitle the Culinary Arts, Food Service Management, and Hospitality Management programs into the Big Sky Culinary Institute

The Culinary Arts and Food Service Management Program have transformed into a collection of degrees and certificates, with a student-staffed restaurant (Blackfoot Café) and an extended library collection of cookbooks. The term institute is a common nomenclature used for culinary schools and is the preferred term used by the American Culinary Federation—the program's accrediting body—when describing a culinary institution. It denotes postsecondary culinary education and separates programs specializing in culinary fundamentals and/or unaccredited programs. Flathead Valley Community College hosts the Culinary Institute of Montana but does not object to this name change.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Retitle the Department of Counselor Education to the Department of Counseling

The University of Montana's Department of Counselor Education proposes to change its name to the Department of Counseling. This new name more accurately reflects the breadth of professionals the department trains.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Establish a Department of Public Administration and Policy

The University of Montana proposes to establish a Department of Public Policy as a new unit within the Blewett School of Law. The new department will house faculty delivering UM's Master of Public Administration, Public Administration Certificate, Nonprofit Certificate, and Nonprofit Minor and will be aligned with the Baucus Institute. Program curriculum will not be changed.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Consolidate the School of Art and School of Media Arts into a merged School of Visual and Media Arts

The University of Montana's School of Art and School of Media Arts propose a merger of their two academic units, to form a single unit, the School of Visual and Media Arts. The two schools offer related coursework that, under the current arrangement, can be difficult to coordinate.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Consolidate the Department of Applied Computing and Engineering Technology into the Department of Business Technology

The Department of Applied Computing and Engineering Technology has only two faculty FTE. The Departments have been working to share resources already. A consolidation will allow them to further improve processes and efficiencies for internal operations and faculty evaluation.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Retitle the Rural Institute

The University of Montana requests authorization from the Montana Board of Regents to retitle the Rural Institute: A Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities to the Rural Institute: A Center for Excellence on Disabilities. This change would better reflect the work of the institute, which works on disabilities that occur across the lifespan, not only those that have their genesis during a person's developmental years.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve

Terminate the Institute for Educational Research and Service

Over the past five years, the Institute for Educational Research and Service has experienced a decline in the number of funded projects. Programs under the Institute have closed and some that were formerly housed within the Institute now operate successfully as independent centers.

OCHE Recommendation: Approve