

REQUEST TO PLAN ITEMS

November 2020

From: Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman
To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Request to Plan items that are being proposed for your review and action at the November 2020 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 Technological University

Split the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Departments

In 2016, Montana Tech transitioned its B.S. in General Engineering into separate B.S. degrees in Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. These two degrees are now fully staffed, enrolled, and accredited. Tech would like to now split the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Departments into separate departments. This structure would be more consistent with the management and reporting structure in other B.S. engineering programs at Montana Tech. The split will require a stipend (\$5000) to support a new department head.

University of Montana – Missoula

Non-professional option in the Pharmaceutical Sciences B.S.

The University of Montana's existing B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences is designed for students who want to undertake concurrent graduate education in pursuit of a PharmD. The proposed new option would create a track better suited for students who wish instead to immediately pursue work in government, the biotechnology sector, or in pharmaceutical development. There is strong demand for research scientists with these skills in Montana and around the country. Students on the non-professional track could choose to later continue towards the professional pharmacy program after completing a leveling certificate. The proposed program of study will wholly leverage existing courses. No substantial additional resources are required.

Big Sky Language Literacy Institute

The proposed Big Sky Language Literacy Institute (BSLLI) would help to organize and coordinate ongoing research, clinical training, and continuing education on language, literacy development, and disabilities at the University of Montana. Currently, the University of Montana is a state and regional leader in speech language pathology and occupational therapy education and research. The Institute would serve to organize these growing activities in a manner that opens new avenues for external grant funding to support both training and research. No significant new resources should be required to form the institute.

Helena College – University of Montana

Certificate in General Studies

The proposed Certificate of General Studies would provide students a milestone toward receiving their Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree at Helena College. Alternatively, they can use the certificate to demonstrate completion of core general education courses, which can help to facilitate transfer within the Montana University System. Several other MUS two year colleges have either established (Great Falls College; Miles Community College; Missoula College) or are considering a similar credential to improve their ability to track completion of general education coursework and to assist students in successfully transferring that coursework as a block, in accordance with MUS transfer policies. This credential relies entirely on existing coursework, so no substantial costs are anticipated.