



Montana University System

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

560 N. Park Avenue – PO Box 203201 – Helena, Montana 59620-3201
(406) 449-9124 - FAX (406) 449-9171

Board of Regents Salary Guidelines for Non-Faculty Contract Employees

Approved: June 1, 2006; Revised: November 18, 2016

All requests for salary adjustments shall adhere to the following parameters.

The Board of Regents has authority to approve requested salary adjustments for employees working under Board of Regents employment contracts (Policy 711.2).

The Commissioner has authority to approve requested salary adjustments for employees working under Montana University System employment contracts (Policy 711.1). All requested salary adjustments of greater than twenty (20) percent without a corresponding increase in assigned duties and responsibilities (a promotion) shall require Board of Regents approval.

I. Across-the-Board Salary Adjustment

- A. Definition: An annual percentage or flat dollar amount salary increase, at least in part intended to be distributed equally among eligible employees.
- B. Amount: The Board of Regents shall establish the amount of any across-the-board adjustment.
- C. Eligibility: Employees eligible for across-the-board increases shall typically have been employed in their current position at least six (6) calendar months prior to the effective date for implementation.
- D. Effective Date: The Board of Regents shall establish the effective date for implementation of the across-the-board salary increases for eligible employees.
- E. Documentation Required: With input from OCHE staff, members of the Board of Regents Staff and Compensation Committee shall determine what, if any, documentation will be required (e.g., fiscal impact assessment, etc.).
- F. Merit Salary Increases: Campuses may elect to award merit salary increases to employees using funds for across-the-board salary adjustment authorized under this policy. Merit increases will be based upon performance evaluations and may be available to an employee who demonstrates outstanding performance in a recent evaluation indicating the employee is above the average rating established by the campus.

II. Retention Salary Increase

- A. Definition: Retention salary increases allow the Montana University System to retain an employee with valuable knowledge, skills or abilities that are vital to the achievement of the University's mission or strategic goals; and whose resignation would have a significant adverse impact on the accomplishment of critical and/or urgent projects.
- B. Amount: Retention salary increases may be permanent or temporary base adjustments or a onetime or periodic lump sum amount that is not added to the employee's base salary. The amount requested shall be supported by relevant salary comparison data from CUPA and/or other sources deemed relevant by OCHE staff, in consultation with the employing unit.

- C. Eligibility: Normally, only those individuals employed at least three (3) full contract terms shall be eligible for a retention salary adjustment. An individual employee may normally receive no more than one (1) retention salary adjustment in any two (2) consecutive year period.
- D. Documentation Required: A retention increase request shall be accompanied by:
 - 1. Explanation of the adverse impact if the employee resigns, and a summary of the employee's value to the institution;
 - 2. Relevant salary survey data, including the job titles and descriptions of duties for positions used for comparison purposes;
 - 3. Existing salary relationships among positions with similar responsibilities and in supervisory hierarchies within the campus and Montana University System;
 - 4. Budget availability, funding source and long-term impact on tuition;
 - 5. Evidence the employee has higher-paying opportunities with other employers.

III. Internal Equity

- A. Definition: A salary adjustment for an employee performing similar work under similar working conditions requiring a comparable level of knowledge, skill, or ability in order to resolve inequities. The fact that a retention salary adjustment is granted to one or more employees on the same or another campus may not be used as the sole justification for additional internal equity salary requests. Other relevant factors to be considered include: merit and length of service of the employee; market-based considerations; statutory protected class considerations; pay compression or inversion in existing pay relationships on a campus.
- B. Amount: The amount requested shall be supported by salary comparison data from within the Montana University System, along with relevant salary comparison data from CUPA and other sources deemed relevant by OCHE staff in consultation with the employing unit.
- C. Eligibility: Normally, only those individuals employed at least three (3) full contract terms shall be eligible for an internal equity salary adjustment.
- D. Documentation Required: An internal equity increase request shall be accompanied by:
 - 1. Explanation of the inequity;
 - 2. Position and salary comparisons within the Montana University System that confirm an internal equity problem: and
 - 3. Budget availability and funding source.

IV. Non-base Performance Bonus

- A. Definition: Non-base building compensation for exemplary service or contribution beyond the scope of the employee's regular job responsibilities and expectations.
- B. Amount: Typically, the amount of a lump sum bonus may not exceed 10 percent of the employee's annual base salary or \$10,000, whichever is less.
- C. Eligibility: Employees must have been continuously employed in their current position for at least twelve (12) calendar months and shall not have received a lump sum bonus in at least the most recent 12-month period.
- D. Criteria: The following job performance criteria shall be used to further determine eligibility:
 - 1. The work significantly exceeds standard expectations in terms of quality, quantity, creativity, initiative, and effort;

2. The employee shall have maintained a consistent level of exemplary job performance during the term of their employment with the Montana University System, as evidenced by regular performance evaluations;
 3. The efficiency, effectiveness, revenue generation, and/or cost savings efforts of the campus and/or University System are measurably enhanced by the employee's documented work; and
 4. The employee's accomplishments occurred within the prior 12-month period.
- E. Documentation Required: Written documentation addressing the above-described eligibility criteria shall be submitted to the Commissioner, along with the requested dollar amount.

V. Recruitment Bonus

- A. Definition: Non-base building compensation awarded upon approval of an employee's initial contract in the Montana University System when the campus chief executive officer verifies the "signing bonus" is necessary to secure the hire.
- B. Amount: Typically, the amount of a recruitment signing bonus may not exceed 10 percent of the annual base salary in the employee's initial contract or \$10,000, whichever is less.

Nothing in these salary guidelines shall be construed to mean that an employee is entitled to any type of salary adjustment at any time, nor shall any provision in these guidelines be construed to mean that any individual is entitled to employment beyond the term of their existing contract, or as provided for in Board of Regents policies.

History: Item 131-116-R0506, Employment contracts and pay guidelines for non-faculty administrators and professionals, approved by the Board of Regents June 1, 2006; Item 173-102-R1116, Revisions to BOR Personnel Policies 711.2, 702.5, and guidelines for non-base performance and recruitment bonuses, approved by the Board of Regents November 18, 2016.

The Montana University System does not provide any commission, lump sum bonus, or other incentive payment to employees based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments or financial aid to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting or admission activities or in making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance (Section 487(a)(20) of the Higher Education Act).