

July 11-12, 2007

**ITEM: 136-1003-R0707**

**Separation of The Department of Educational Leadership & Counseling into two Departments: "Educational Leadership" and "Counselor Education."**

**THAT:**

In Accordance with Montana University System Policy, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes The University of Montana-Missoula to separate the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling into two Departments: "Educational Leadership" and "Counselor Education."

**EXPLANATION:**

This proposal requests the granting of separate Department Status to each discipline located in the current Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling: "Educational Leadership" and "Counselor Education."

Established in 1992, the combination of the two disciplines fit at the time because the overall unit was small and both programs focused only on graduate education. Since then, Educational Leadership has grown from four to five tenure track faculty members and Counselor Education from two to four.

The Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling has functioned as two separate programs with the exception of Department faculty evaluation standards and processes. Largely housed in separate campus buildings, each discipline maintained separate curricula, programs, accreditation standards, graduate students and faculty disciplines. Administratively, they have functioned separately.

In the spring of 2005, the external reviewer brought in to assess the department according to Board of Regents policy suggested that there was unnecessary duplication involved in maintaining communication in a combined Department and recommended separation.

As a result of much discussion over the years, separation into two Departments is supported by all Department faculty members to achieve clarity of purpose, assessment and mission.