

July 10, 2008

ITEM NO. 140-1001-R0708

**Approval to establish a Masters of Science and Doctorate in Medicinal Chemistry.**

**THAT:**

In accordance with Montana University System Policy, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes The University of Montana – Missoula to establish a Masters of Science and a Doctorate in Medicinal Chemistry.

**EXPLANATION:**

The Medicinal Chemistry is a scientific discipline at the interface of chemistry and pharmacy that trains students to design and develop pharmaceutical drugs, and is consistently at the forefront of biomedical research. It is one of a few advanced training areas with its foundation in classical undergraduate education and serves as a required discipline in Pharmacy.

There continues to be a regional and national need for medicinal chemists to fill growing opportunities in the biotechnology industry. A Medicinal Chemistry program at The University of Montana would emphasize neuroscience as its research specialty providing a unique focus niche. In addition, it would amplify and strengthen collaborations with the existing PhD/MS program in Neuroscience and Neuroscience programs throughout the country.