

August 3, 2009

ITEM 144-104-R0809 Board of Regents Action-Clarification: U.S. Yellow Ribbon Program

THAT: The Board of Regents of Higher Education clarifies its action of May 29, 2009 authorizing campuses to participate in the U.S. Yellow Ribbon Program: the campuses of the Montana University System are authorized to participate in the program without limitations.

EXPLANATION: On May 29, 2009, the Board of Regents authorized institutions of the Montana University System to participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs' "Yellow Ribbon" Program. The federal program funds tuition and fees for veterans to varying extents and allows the campuses to tailor their participation as they deem appropriate. A presentation at the May 28-29 Board of Regents meeting explained the program. Unfortunately, language in the Board of Regents' Item 143-108-R0509, enacted by the Board on May 29, appears to limit our campuses' participation in the program to only non-resident students. In fact the federal Yellow Ribbon Program provides funds for **all** eligible Post 9/11 veterans who have remaining tuition and fees that exceed the state maximum as set forth by the Veteran's Affairs Administration. The program is a benefit for veterans and a tool for our campuses in their attempts to assist students achieve their postsecondary education goals. This item removes any perceived limitation on the program relating to residency and student level.

ATTACHMENT: BOR Item 143-108-R0509