

**January 7-8, 2009**

**ITEM NO.: 142-1004-R0109 Approval to Create a New Minor in Climate Change Studies**

**THAT:** In accordance with Montana University System Policy, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes The University of Montana – Missoula to create a new minor in climate change studies.

**EXPLANATION:** No program within the Montana University System currently offers an undergraduate or graduate degree in Climate Change Studies. This minor would be not only the first Climate Change Studies minor in the state of Montana, but also one of the first interdisciplinary climate change minors in the nation. The issue of global climate change is gaining momentum at the local, national and international levels. It is in the State's best interest to prepare students to meet this challenge by offering multi-disciplinary training in the scientific, ethical, political, and economic considerations of global climate change, as well as solutions to the issue that include both mitigation and adaptation. The proposed minor will address these critical needs and contribute a timely, innovative academic program at the state and national level.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Appendix A: Course Descriptions  
Appendix B: Representative Course Calendar  
Appendix C: Letters of Support