

March 4-5, 2010

**ITEM146-2006-R0310     Master of Engineering; Montana State University-Bozeman**

**THAT:**                     The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University-Bozeman to establish a Master of Engineering.

**EXPLANATION:**         The College of Engineering at Montana State University-Bozeman seeks approval to establish a Master of Engineering degree. This is a professional (terminal) degree. It positions MSU to meet current and expected needs of engineers in Montana and beyond to attain the title of Professional Engineer. It is expected that perhaps as early as 2012 engineers will need 30 credits beyond the Bachelor's degree to be Professional Engineers. It also offers the opportunity for practicing professionals to engage in lifelong learning and enhance the workforce in Montana. Most practicing professionals need to increase their knowledge and not necessarily pursue a research based program.

The M.Eng is differentiated from current Master of Science degrees in that the focus is on the current or potentially practicing professional engineer. It is not a research-based degree. Rather it has a strong career focus to develop a workforce skilled in multiple engineering areas to meet today's business and industry demands for engineers.

It is solidly supported by the College of Engineering's advisory councils and Montana engineers. Many other institutions like MSU have had M.Eng programs for a long time. With the expected full implementation of the Model Law in Montana and across the U.S., we must position ourselves to offer this professional degree. In addition, it will strengthen current graduate programs in Engineering by establishing a stronger connection between the laboratory and the practice of engineering for our faculty, students, and the State of Montana.

**ATTACHMENTS:**         Proposal