



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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TO: Montana Board of Regents

FROM: Joyce A. Scott, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs

RE: Data on Graduate Degree Productivity

You will recall that the Board authorized staff to undertake a study of graduate education in the Montana University System in November 2000. We adopted an outline for the study that was proposed by the Deputy and modified in consultation with the campuses. I subsequently consulted with the graduate deans about segments of the study and each agreed to work on a particular topic.

All of that good planning and consultation was brought to a halt, however, by lack of data and/or the need to make existing data consistent across campuses or periods of time. Mary Craigle has created the attached data summaries from IPEDs files available through the National Center for Education Statistics. These are the data that the campuses have reported annually to the U.S. Department of Education.

I have distributed these data to the respective campuses and asked academic officers to provide brief narrative explaining trends and any anomalies in their graduate programs. With that information in hand, we should be able to complete the study of graduate education that had been forecast last Fall.

In reviewing the data, you will find some lines shaded. This identifies programs on which we need to conduct additional analysis with the campuses. The shading indicates degrees that do now appear of the Degree and Program Inventory as revised following the 1999-2000 Program Review. In some cases, it is clear that campuses closed programs in the decade, most likely as a result of the 1995 program review. In other cases, the awarding of degrees continues over the decade suggesting that a program is continuing despite its disappearance from the Inventory.

This is an area that will require careful research in consultation with the campuses, and we are committed to pursuing that discussion as the rest of the study of graduate education progresses.

Cc: Commissioner Crofts
Chief Academic Officers