



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

May 7, 2004

TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Roger Barber, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs
SUBJECT: Level I Approvals and Announcements, May 2004

This memorandum is intended to inform you of the Level I changes in academic programs that have been approved in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education since the last meeting of the Board of Regents. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them with the help of my colleagues in academic affairs.

Montana State University-Bozeman:

[ITEM 123-2003+R0504](#): Montana State University-Bozeman has requested that the name of the Extension option, in the Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education, be changed to *Agricultural Relations*. The name change will serve students who are interested in careers in both the extension service and the agricultural relations field.

[ITEM 123-2004+R0504](#): The College of Nursing at Montana State University-Bozeman has developed a transition program that will permit licensed practical nurses to move more quickly through its Bachelor of Science degree program for registered nurses. Under the proposal, LPNs will be permitted to challenge four (4) sophomore-level nursing courses in the BSN curriculum. If those challenges are successful, students will complete approximately a semester's worth of coursework without actually taking the classes. The College of Nursing expects to admit approximately six (6) LPN nurses to its program, under this new transition plan, based on past history. The College will not increase the overall number of students admitted to its program, under this new proposal. Although this new program almost certainly does not require Regent approval, under current policies, it is an important development for nursing education in Montana and is included in this Level I memorandum for informational purposes.

Montana State University-Billings:

[ITEM 123-2701+R0504](#): Montana State University-Billings continues to work on the structural changes associated with the creation of its new College of Allied Health Professions, which was approved by the Montana Board of Regents in March 2003. Faculty and programs from the Department of Health, Physical Education and Human Services and the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling program have been officially transferred to the new College. As a result of those moves, MSU-Billings has asked that: 1) the name of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Human Services be changed to the *Department of Health and Human Performance*; and 2) a new Department of Rehabilitation and Human Services be created, that will include the A.A. and B.S. degrees in Rehabilitation and Related Services, the M.S. degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, and the B.S. in Human Services.

[ITEM 123-2702+R0504](#): Montana State University-Billings College of Technology has requested permission to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in Application Development. The new two-year degree has significant support in the Billings community, and is being developed with the assistance of a Congressional grant. Under the procedures approved by the Montana Board of Regents, Associate of Applied Science programs “. . . offered in cooperation with . . . private or public sector partners and the decision point to offer the program is not consistent with the regular Board of Regents program approval process. . .” may be submitted as Level I proposals. Such programs will only be approved for two years, and must be resubmitted to the Board if the institution wishes to continue the degree offering.

Flathead Valley Community College:

[ITEM 123-301+R0504](#): Flathead Valley Community College has requested that its certificate program in Goldsmithing Bench become a permanent part of its degree inventory. That certificate was initially created in May 2000, as part of a Level I request, but the institution used the “two-year temporary approval process” to establish the certificate. The institution should have simply asked for Level I approval of a certificate program in an existing major, since Flathead Valley Community College also has an A.A.S. degree in Professional Goldsmithing. If it had followed that easier approval route, no subsequent follow-up and approval would have been necessary. This item is included in the Level I memorandum to clear up the status of the Goldsmithing Bench certificate program.

[ITEM 123-302+R0504](#): Flathead Valley Community College has asked for permission to change the name of its A.A.S. degree in Business Management to *Business Administration*. As part of that name change, the institution has also revised the two-year program, including the addition of some of the coursework in the current A.A.S. degree in Business Management, with an option in marketing. As a consequence, that marketing option is no longer necessary.

[ITEM 123-304+R0504](#): Flathead Valley Community College has filed a notice of intent to eliminate its Certificate program in Sports Marketing because of low enrollments. This notice of intent has been filed to satisfy the public notice requirements associated with termination of a program of study in the Montana University System.

[ITEM 123-305+R0504](#): Flathead Valley Community College has requested that the name of its certificate in Business Management be changed to *Business Administration*.

[ITEM 123-306+R0504](#): Flathead Valley Community College has requested that its A.A.S. degree in Business Management, with an option in Small Business Management, be changed to an A.A.S. degree in *Small Business Management*.