

July 8-9, 2008

ITEM 140-101-R0708

Temporary authorization for Montana State University to Award Two-Year Degrees Currently Offered by MSU - Great Falls in Bozeman

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorize Montana State University to award for a temporary period Associate of Applied Science degrees in Aviation Technology, Design Drafting, and Interior Design and the Certificate of Applied Science in Welding Technology.

EXPLANATION:

For over a decade, MSU – Great Falls has extended aspects of its programming to the Gallatin Valley to respond to demand for two-year programming there. In 2004 and 2005, the programming of MSU – Great Falls in Bozeman expanded significantly with a comprehensive set of developmental courses and services at MSU and the introduction of career/technical programs. Last year, MSU – Great Falls served 696 MSU students in developmental courses and 83 “COT in Bozeman” extension students seeking the Associate of Applied Science degree in Interior Design or Aviation Technology or the Certificate of Applied Science in Welding.

The “COT in Bozeman” extension of MSU – Great Falls has been successful in many respects. However, it has strained the fiscal and human resources of MSU – Great Falls. For three of the past four years, expenses have exceeded revenue significantly—most recently, by over \$78,000. This figure does not take into account the impact of the extensive time, travel, and communications required to operate the program in an effective manner.

For these reasons, MSU – Great Falls wishes to phase out its extended programming in Bozeman. At the same time, recognizing the value and the potential of the two-year education mission on its campus and in its community, MSU wishes to sustain the current programs and the momentum for new programs by expanding its academic menu to include the offering of two-year degrees.

ATTACHMENTS:

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