

May 29 – 30, 2008

ITEM 139-101-R0508

Approval of a New Policy 806.1, Supervising teachers; payment; and Repeal of Current Policy 806.1

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves a new Policy 806.1, Supervising teachers; payment, to clarify the process and to provide a periodic review of the equitable payment schedule developed by the teacher education programs throughout the Montana University System; and

The Board of Regents also repeals its existing policy governing supervising teacher compensation.

EXPLANATION:

The Montana Board of Regents has a policy on payment for K-12 teachers, when those professionals assist the Montana University System in the supervision of its student-teacher candidates. That policy has been in place since 1999. The rationale for the Board's policy is to ensure fairness and equity in the payment of supervising teachers, primarily because teacher education programs from throughout the System must place their students in schools throughout the State. If one unit of the University System could "out bid" every other unit, that placement would be extremely difficult and unfair.

The rationale for the policy is still relevant, and the teacher education programs in the System still support its intent and purpose. Unfortunately, the details of the current policy have not always been honored, the campuses have been creative in their compensation techniques, and no process has been developed to periodically review. . .and agree on. . .an equitable compensation package.

The proposed policy establishes a periodic review process; creates boundaries and some flexibility for the supervising teacher's compensation; and recognizes a variety of compensation possibilities. Hopefully, the policy provides both structure and some discretion in

working with these important K-12 partners. Just as hopefully, the policy ensures that all teacher education programs have a fair opportunity when looking for placements for their student teacher candidates.

The new policy was developed in collaboration with all of the deans and directors of the teacher education programs in the Montana University System. It was also shared with the chief academic officers in March 2008 for their input and feedback.