

December 9, 2011

**ITEM 153-2002-C1211**

**Nursing – Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing “Super” Tuition**

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**THAT**

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University to change the funding model for the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing option (BSN) offered in the College of Nursing.

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**EXPLANATION**

The College of Nursing at Montana State University is currently offering an accelerated, second degree option for students to earn a baccalaureate degree in Nursing. This option is available only to students who already have a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than Nursing and was approved by the Board of Regents in November, 2010. Students in the accelerated BSN option complete the Nursing degree in approximately 16 months, as opposed to the 28 months it takes basic students. The first cohort of 16 students began studies in May, 2011 and will graduate in August of 2012. The interest for this program is intense, with 80 applications having been submitted for the second cohort of students. Thus, the College is hoping to admit an additional 16 students to the MSU College of Nursing’s Great Falls campus. This expansion to a new site was approved at the October, 2011 Board of Nursing meeting. Letters of support for this expansion have been received from the Nursing Program Directors at MSU-Northern and MSU Great Falls College of Technology, and the Chief Clinical and Nursing Officer of Benefis Health System/Benefis Hospitals in Great Falls.

The College of Nursing at Montana State University requests approval to change the funding model for the accelerated BSN option from Extended University to the general fund in order to account for credit courses in the preferred manner expressed by the Board. The accelerated BSN option was initially approved to be funded through Extended University. Tuition revenue from this model supports the additional instructional and administrative costs to the College of Nursing.

Current traditional resident undergraduate students (not accelerated option students) pay \$211.55/credit or \$2,538.60/sem in tuition (due to the flat spot at 12 credits). Additionally, full time students pay university fees of \$675.38/sem (excluding the Student Health Insurance fee) and a nursing program fee of \$192.92/sem (x 5 semesters). To recoup the revenue required to fund the actual costs of the accelerated BSN, while moving the student credit hours “in-load”, we propose to charge a “super tuition” to the accelerated BSN nursing students. The resident per credit tuition we propose is \$282.21, with no flat spot, over a 70 credit program. University and nursing program fees will be consistent with those charged to all other undergraduate students. This rate includes a modest increase over the current Extended University funding model, allowing the program to partially support University infrastructure and administrative overhead costs.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Accelerated Nursing Program – Proposed Rate Tables