

Board of Regents Meeting, Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Sub-committee meeting,
Wednesday September 21, 2011

Information Item:

State Authorization of out-of-State institutions under U.S. Department of Education Rules 600.9

Institutions across the country, public and private, large and small, continue to request authorization to deliver online academic program courses to students residing in Montana. While this new requirement has been in effect since October 29, 2010, and has been temporarily suspended by a Federal Court judge, the institutions continue to submit requests for State Authorization. OCHE responds to each request with a single page informational memo that clearly identifies the requirements for State Authorization in Montana; a request for an electronic copy of their most recent institutional accreditation letter; and a note to register as a business with the MT Secretary of State (public institutions exempted). Upon receipt of that document, we verify the accreditation through one of the regional accreditation web sites or through CHEA to ensure compliance with BoR policy. OCHE has completed reviews of 249 institutional submissions (09/06/11) and has granted authorization to 243 of those institutions. Six institutions have been denied authorization for lack of acceptable accreditation. In addition, OCHE has responded to more than 200 additional requests for information from campuses that desire State Authorization. The approvals granted so far include blanket authorization for the following System inquiries:

- Colorado Community Colleges – 13 campuses
- North Dakota Higher Education System – 11 campuses
- South Dakota Higher Education System – 6 campuses
- State University of New York Higher Education System – 64 campuses
- Utah Higher Education System – 15 campuses

The attached listing of campuses includes 30 of these campuses, plus the SUNY and UTAH System approvals (See also <http://portal.mus.edu> under the tab “Academic Affairs- State Authorization) for a listing of all approved campuses).