



**MINUTES**  
**Montana Board of Regents**

Conference Call Meeting  
September 4, 2012  
11:30 – 11:45 AM

Roll call indicated a quorum present.

**Regents Present:**, Angela McLean, Chair, Major Robinson, Vice Chair, Paul Tuss, Pat Williams, Joe Thiel, and Jeff Krauss, all by phone. Regent Todd Buchanan, was excused, as were *ex officio* members Commissioner Clayton T. Christian, Governor Brian Schweitzer, and Superintendent Denise Juneau.

Sites represented by phone were: Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), MSU-Bozeman, MSU-Billings, MSU-Northern, UM-Missoula, UM-Western, Dawson Community College, the Office of the Governor, and a member of the press.

**ACTION**

Temporary Revision of Board of Regents Policy 940.1, Residency; OCHE *ITEM 156-101-C0912*

Interim Deputy Commissioner of Academic, Research, and Student Affairs, Neil Moisey, noted that the MUS student health insurance is not available to students taking less than seven credits this year and said this has become an issue for students trying to establish residency by taking six credits. The commissioner's office is recommending the proposed temporary action to ensure students who are attempting to establish residency by taking a half-load will qualify for the health insurance for this academic year. The policy will be reviewed again next year for a possible permanent solution when the MUS Employee Benefits Plan enters into negotiations with the insurance carrier for coverage for the 2013-2014 year.

Deputy Commissioner Sylvia Moore noted that most states do set a cap related to the number of credits a student can take while trying to gain residency and stressed that the reason this is an issue now is that the necessary changes to the student health plan had the unintended consequence of affecting students who are expressly taking a half-load to establish residency. She added that the reason the revision is for one-year is because the MUS will be going out to bid on the student health insurance contract before the next year's rates are set and we can't predict how those rates will look.

Chief Legal Counsel Catherine Swift assured the board that the MUS Benefits Plan director is aware of the implications the Affordable Care Act will have on student insurance once the Act is fully implemented in 2014. The Plan will utilize the exchanges established by that law to assist students to find insurance.

Regent Jeff Krauss moved approval of item 156-101-C0912. Motion passed 6-0, with Regent Buchanan being absent from the conference call.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.



**Approved by the Board of Regents on**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Clayton T. Christian  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

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Angela McLean  
Chair, Board of Regents