

**Memo**

To: Board of Regents  
From: Kevin McRae, Deputy Commissioner for Communications & Human Resources  
Date: May 20, 2016  
Re: **Item 171-108-R0516**

I recommend approval of the FY 2016-19 labor agreement between the Montana University System and the MEA-MFT-affiliated organization representing certain graduate teaching and research assistants at Montana State University. The agreement covers approximately 700 graduate students.

The primary economic component of the agreement provides for a \$130-per-month payment (an increase of \$10 from the current level of \$120) to each graduate assistant, in addition to their regular base/core stipends during the Academic Year.

The strong work by the bargaining representatives for MEA-MFT and management in arriving at this mutually agreeable outcome settles the bargaining subject of compensation for the duration of the agreement that expires June 30, 2019. Ratification and approval of this agreement establishes a binding contract between the parties until renegotiation begins in 2019 for a FY 2020-21 agreement.