

From: Deputy Commissioner John Cech

To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Level II items that are being proposed for your review and action at the March 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and community colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

Montana State University Bozeman

Establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering

Montana State University - Bozeman seeks to replace the existing Bio-Resources (BREN) Option of the Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering (BSCE) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering (BS EENV). While the BREN option in Civil Engineering has been a popular option for environmentally directed students (approximately 120 in number), the Civil Engineering Department feels environmental engineering is a more readily recognized engineering expertise, both by students and employers. The proposed degree program will complement both MSU's internationally recognized Center for Biofilm Engineering and graduate degree programs in environmental engineering.

Montana Tech of the University of Montana also offers a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, but the programs are differentiated based on their areas of technical focus. MSU-Bozeman and Montana Tech Department Chairs have agreed to pursue future collaborative opportunities in teaching and research in this area.

Existing resources deployed for the Bio-Resources Option will be reallocated towards the BS in Environmental Engineering as students enroll. Minor transition costs will be met through existing student tuition and fee revenue.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana State University Bozeman

Establish a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture

Montana State University - Bozeman seeks to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture (BSLA). This degree will build on and eventually replace an existing landscape design option in MSU's Environmental Horticulture BS degree. The new degree program will seek accreditation by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB). If successful, this will be the first LAAB accredited program in Montana. LAAB accreditation will allow graduates to more quickly achieve licensure in Montana.

The new program will initially require one additional instructor FTE (two more if the program is successfully accredited), some redesign of existing classroom space, and resources to support a program director and pursue LAAB accreditation. The department will propose a program fee to offset expenses for specialty ink/paper, equipment and field trips associated with the program.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana Tech of the University of Montana

Establish an AAS Precision Machining Technology Program

Montana Tech of the University of Montana seeks to establish an Associate of Applied Science in Precision Machining Technology. This proposal will give students in Montana Tech's existing Machining Technology Certificate program the option to pursue a second year of study towards either an AAS in Metals Fabrication or an AAS in Precision Machining Technology. In theory, students will be able to complete two AAS degrees in three years.

This program has been developed with the assent and support of similar programs at Gallatin College, Helena College and Flathead Valley Community College. An additional adjunct instructor will be required to support this program. No new equipment or facilities are required.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Helena College University of Montana

Permanently authorize a Certificate in Licensed Practical Nursing

The Office of the Commissioner granted temporary approval for a Certificate in Licensed Practical Nursing at Helena College in March 2016. Helena College now seeks authorization to permanently offer this certificate program.

Spurred by the HealthCare Montana grant, Helena College changed its offering in practical nursing from a 51-credit AAS to a 42-credit certificate. The greatest change to the curriculum was revision of the required prerequisite courses to align with the LPN scope of practice. Anatomy & Physiology is now a four (4) credit BIOH 104/105 and math is now M 120 Mathematics with Healthcare Applications, which is more specific to the responsibilities of the LPN. Community nursing was added to Gerontology to be current with changing needs in LPN employment. The goal of these changes was to create a more efficient educational pathway into the LPN workforce.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

University of Montana Western

Restructure University of Montana Western Academic Affairs

The University of Montana Western seeks approval for a restructure of its academic affairs administration. The proposed change would establish four divisions led by division chairs with authority to provide supervision, make key decisions, and conduct evaluations and reviews. The current structure relies heavily on department chairs who do not have such authority under Western's collective bargaining agreement.

During fall semester 2017, faculty were encouraged to submit restructure proposals to faculty senate. Five proposals were received and voted on. One proposal, suggesting an Assistant Provost for Assessment and Accreditation, received faculty endorsement (6 votes to 4), but Western's leadership did not move this proposal forward, contending it failed to address key issues in the current structure. A proposal to create four division chairs did not receive faculty senate support, failing on a tie vote of 5 to 5.

All faculty were informed of the proposed change on December 20th and of the process for nomination and selection of division chairs on January 10th. Positive ongoing discussions are occurring with the Labor Management Committee to clarify the duties of new Division Chairs and alter the collective bargaining agreement where necessary. Salary and release time for new Division Chairs is being paid for via vacancy savings from an unfilled Assistant Provost position.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve