

## Level II Action Items

July 2019

From: Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman

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 July 2019 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.

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### **The University of Montana - Missoula**

#### **Retitle the Department of Health and Human Performance to the School of Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training**

The Community Health program and faculty within UM's Health and Human Performance are joining the School of Public and Community Health Sciences. The remaining faculty and academic programs in HHP are better identified by an Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training designation. Academic units in the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences are schools, UM requests to retitle the department to the School of Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training.

*OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve*

#### **Retitle the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences to the School of Speech, Language, Hearing, and Occupational Sciences**

Other academic units in College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences are schools. The proposed new name will match the existing nomenclature within the college and also incorporate the Occupational Therapy program that is currently in development (slated to start in 2021) that will be included in this school.

*OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve*

#### **Establish a Mountain Water Institute**

The University of Montana proposes to establish a Mountain Water Institute to organize and develop broad UM faculty expertise in the water issues and challenges of mountain regions. Currently, UM researchers and educators on water science and policy are spread across multiple units. The institute is envisioned as a means to enhance cross campus and cross state collaboration, provide support for grant writing and administration, incubate new academic programs and training on water issues, and offer community and stakeholder outreach on water-related themes.

UM's VP for Research and Creative Scholarship will support an existing UM faculty member as Director (one-course buy-out and one-month summer salary), part-time administrative assistance (up to \$45,000 including fringe), and initial MWI activities as described above

(\$10,000) for the first year. Thereafter the MWI will be funded by external support generated by the Director (e.g., foundation grants, philanthropic giving) and indirect cost returns, under a model proposed by the VP of Research and Creative Scholarship. The level of funding will therefore be contingent on success in generating research grants and other external support.

In response to concerns that this proposal might fragment or silo Montana's water research presence, OCHE convened stakeholders from 4-year campuses across the system in May 2019 to explore whether the needs of UM's water research community and the needs of the state could be better met through a single statewide entity. The meeting included representatives from two existing water-focused research organizations, the Montana Water Center (a federally funded statewide center housed at MSU-Bozeman) and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG).

Following that meeting, Commissioner's office staff concluded that the needs the proposed institute are meant to address on the UM campus are too operationally complex to be effectively met through the development of a new statewide entity or changes to existing water research institutions. OCHE did recognize a need to maintain and strengthen statewide collaborations on water research and granting as well as a unified 'storefront' for policymakers and stakeholders depending on the MUS for insights into emerging challenges. The assembled group agreed to work with the statewide NSF EPSCoR CREWS grant team, a five-year \$20 M project exploring environmental water systems statewide, to develop and implement strategies to that end.

*OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve*