

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 November 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.

Montana State University - Billings

Rename and reorganize the College of Allied Health Professions

Montana State University – Billings requests approval to relocate the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences into the College of Allied Health Professions and to change the name of the College to the College of Health Professions and Science. The Department of Biological and Physical Sciences will be co-located with much of the Allied Health programming once the Yellowstone Building is completed. The shared location, coupled with this reorganization, will facilitate new pathways and collaborations between science and allied health faculty and curricula.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Rename and reorganize the College of Arts and Sciences

Montana State University – Billings request approval to change the name of the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. This new name will better capture the expertise and curricula housed within the College once the Department of Biological and Physical sciences is integrated with the College of Allied Health Professions.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana Technological University

Rename and reorganize the Business department at Highlands College

Highlands College of Montana Tech request approval to rename the Business department to the Business and Industry department. This change will better reflect the offerings organized by the department once three Trades area offerings – Construction, Civil Engineering Technology, and Drafting Technology – are moved from Highland’s Trades department. This shift will both better balance the workload of the current Trades department chair and help to facilitate business-related programming for trades that often require some business and accounting curricula.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana State University - Bozeman

Consolidate and merge the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Aligning the eight tenured faculty members and two instructors in CBN with the 19 tenured and tenure-track faculty, plus over 10 research faculty and instructors in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology will provide a stronger foundation for sustainability and future growth of graduate and undergraduate academic programs and associated research opportunities for students.

The merger of these departments did not change any of the terms and conditions of employment for the faculty members in either unit. The tenurable faculty still retain all rights of tenure. Their offices and laboratories have not moved. The merger has not resulted in any changes to the undergraduate programs that were delivered previously by each of the two units. The merger is budget neutral; no additional resources are necessary as a result of the re-alignment.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve