



**MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  
**Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education**

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**TO: BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**FROM: LAURIE NEILS**  
**DATE: MAY 8, 2001**  
**RE: PROPOSED CHANGES - COURSE FEES/MISCELLANEOUS FEES FY2002 INVENTORY AND VALIDATION OF FEES**

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The "Miscellaneous" Section of the annual Inventory and Validation of Fees contains numerous charges to students and other users that are not part of the mandatory tuition and mandatory fee matrices. This section includes fees such as Supertuition, Program Fees, Course Fees, Testing Fees, Orientation and Graduation Fees, Parking Registration Fees, and fines. Course fees represent a significant portion of miscellaneous fees.

For the fiscal year 2002 Inventory and Validation of Fees, the University System incorporated the recommendations contained in the report from the Regents Task Force on Student Fees. Changes to course fees include:

- The elimination of some course fees
- Reduction of portions of course fees
- Additions or increases to course fees that meet the criteria of the policy.

We asked the campuses to prepare a matrix that showed the courses eliminated or reduced (by course or aggregated by departments) and the proposed amounts to be made up by tuition, computer fee, equipment fee, program fees, or other mandatory fees. Below is a summary spreadsheet of the campuses reports.

Some of the significant issues related to the implementation of the Course Fee report are:

- Campuses are recommending the following per-credit tuition increases
  - MSU Billings - \$1.40
  - MSU Northern - \$.29
  - MSU Bozeman - \$.08
  - UM Missoula \$.22
  - UM Western - \$.38
  - UM Helena COT - \$.40
- Campuses are recommending increases in the per-credit Computer Fee:
  - MSU Billings - \$4.20 (replaces the Instructional Materials Fee of \$4.20/cr)
  - UM Missoula - \$.05
  - UM Montana Tech - \$.90
- Campuses are recommending increases in the per-credit Equipment Fee:
  - MSU Billings - \$.08
  - UM Missoula - \$.15
  - UM Montana Tech \$1.05
  - UM Western - \$.20
  - MSU Northern - \$.90

**Montana University System**  
**Course Fees**  
**ACADEMIC YEAR 2001-2002 CHANGES**

Campus	# Eliminated or Reduced	\$ Eliminated or Reduced	Per Credit \$ to Tuition	Per Credit Comp/Equip Fee	Other Per Semester
<b>Montana State University</b>					
Bozeman	175	\$ 310,616	\$ .08		Architecture - \$400 for upper division Film & Theatre Arts \$300.00 \$200.00
Billings	10	\$ 153,587	\$ 1.40	(E) \$4.20 (E) \$0.08	Equipment assessment to COT students  Academic Support \$33.60 Center Fee
Northern	130	\$ 40,373	\$ 0.29	(E) \$0.90	
Great Falls COT	0				
<b>University of Montana</b>					
Missoula	171	\$ 255,438	\$ 0.22	(C) \$0.05 (E) \$0.15	Forestry Tuition Surcharge Social Work Tuition Surcharge \$4,000/yr
Tech	159	\$ 93,372		(E) \$0.90 (C) \$1.05	
Western	84	\$ 14,959	\$ 0.38	(E) \$0.20	
Helena COT	7	\$ 9,775	\$ 0.40		Electronics \$40.00 Majors

Campuses are also recommending program fees /tuition surcharges or new mandatory fees to replace individual course fees. I have included each campus justification for their changes with this memo. The information related to mandatory fees is also included under a separate memo.

We will continue the process of reviewing course fees and ensuring consistency in the definitions of course fees and their applications. A positive example occurred this year when all the Colleges of Technology offering the new CICSCO series of courses agreed to charge the same amount per class.

I will bring costs related to room and board and student health insurance to you in July. By that time we should have compiled the full Inventory and Validation of Fees for FY2002.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA– MISSOULA**  
**Program Charge/Tuition Surcharges:**

**Forestry Tuition Surcharge**

Proposed Change: Replace the current Forestry Fee of \$70 Per Semester with a Forestry Tuition Surcharge at the rate of \$200 per semester for all upper division students enrolled in Forestry majors (approximately 325 students). In addition, selected lower division courses (e.g. introductory soils) and specialized upper division courses and programs (e.g. wilderness and civilization and the recreation capstone program) would have laboratory/field trip fees, and non-forestry students would pay

laboratory/field trip fees for selected upper division courses (e.g. forest ecology).

To make such a system work there will need to be a gate for entrance into Forestry's upper division programs and there must be restrictions on entrance into upper division courses so that tuition surcharge cannot be by-passed.

The burden for this change in pricing policy will fall on upper division students who are the students most benefiting from the field and laboratory experiences now provided by Forestry. Relieved of most of the costs will be lower division students who are exploring their intellectual and career options, and who take few courses from Forestry's portfolio.

How applied: \$200 Per Semester Tuition Surcharge for all upper-division undergraduates (approximately 325 students).

Estimated revenue: \$130,000 Per Year.

Justification: Natural resource curricula are relatively high cost due to extensive field and laboratory requirements. These curricula, to be of high quality and practical relevance, require students to spend considerable time in forests and rangelands, on streams and lakes, and at parks and other protected areas. At these sites they develop observational and measurement skills, they test ideas about management tools and techniques and the consequences of their implementation, and they interact with practicing foresters, wildlife conservationists, range ecologists, watershed hydrologists, recreation planners and managers, wood products mill supervisors and managers, and many others.

To meet these needs, historically the School of Forestry has imposed a program fee, within the laboratory fee program, of \$70 per semester for every student enrolled in selected School of Forestry courses. This fee has been constant for several years with its buying power declining each year. The revenue derived from this fee has been used to provide teaching assistants and others directly involved in instructing and learning activities and to pay for field trips and expendable laboratory materials. Under new guidelines promulgated by the Board of Regents it no longer will be possible to impose this fee and use its revenue for all of the needs of the program. The direct loss to the instructional program of the School of Forestry is approximately \$120,000 per year. Without a replacement, the quality of education offered by the School of Forestry will decline, and School of Forestry students will not receive the field and laboratory experiences that make them knowledgeable, field savvy, employees once they leave the University.

### **Social Work Tuition Surcharge**

New Tuition Surcharge: Social Work Tuition Surcharge

How applied: \$4000 Per Year.

Estimated revenue: \$100,000 first year; \$200,000 second year.

Description: Tuition surcharge for MSW students.

Justification: There is no MSW program within the Montana University system or at any of Montana's private colleges. There are 7 universities in the northwest and adjoining states that offer MSW programs. The State of Washington has 3: the University of Washington, Eastern Washington University, and Walla Walla College; Oregon has 1 MSW program located at Portland State University; Idaho has 1 located at Boise State University; Wyoming has a program at the University of Wyoming – Laramie; and North Dakota has 1 located at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

Prior to 1997, Montana residents typically attended Eastern Washington University to obtain a MSW because of its proximity to Missoula, and its allowance of in-state tuition through the WICHE program. This changed in 1997 when Walla Walla College, a private Seventh Day Adventist College based in Washington, established a satellite campus in Missoula and began offering the MSW. Walla Walla's inaugural class size was 25 students. Twenty-one students from this class were graduates of UM's baccalaureate social work program. Walla Walla's enrollment tripled in two years once it offered a two-year course of study in fall 1998 for students who did not possess an undergraduate degree in social work. In fall 2000, Walla Walla-Missoula admitted 80 students to its program, 28 of which are enrolled in the two-year program. Eleven of the 28 students are UM graduates with degrees in Anthropology (3), Psychology (3), Law (1), Communications (1), Sociology (1), and Art (1). Ten students graduated from other in-state schools (Carroll (3), WMC (2), UGF (2), MSU (2), & SKC (1)) and hold similar degrees. The remaining seven students are not residents of Montana and have either relocated to Missoula or commute from Idaho. In spite of its high tuition costs, Walla Walla projects an enrollment of 100 students beginning fall 2001.

The University of Montana's MSW program differs from Walla Walla's in four primary areas: 1) cost; 2) number of students accepted; 3) curricular focus; and 4) access to educational resources. Walla Walla

currently charges \$399 per credit hour (\$15,960 annually) and students entering the two-year program are required to complete 80 credits (quarters) to obtain their MSW. The cost of tuition is prohibitive for many Montana residents who want to pursue an MSW and of those who do attend, many are forced to move out-of-state to pay the debt they have incurred.

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## **MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY – BOZEMAN**

### **Program Charge/Tuition Surcharges**

#### Department of Architecture Tuition Surcharge

- \$300.00 semester ARCH253 Fall Semester
- \$300.00 semester ARCH254 Spring Semester
- \$300.00 semester ARCH355 Fall Semester
- \$300.00 semester ARCH356 Spring Semester
- \$300.00 semester ARCH457 Fall Semester
- \$300.00 semester One of the following: ARCH414, ARCH450, ARCH458, ARCH476 for the Spring Semester
  
- \$400.00 semester ARCH592 Fall Semester
- \$400.00 semester One of the following: ARCH551, ARCH554, ARCH576 for the Spring Semester

The department had in place a number of course and field trip fees associated with the program. In our original proposal we recommended that the course fees be eliminated and replaced with a program fee of \$30. Three items of concern emanated from the recommendation. The first concern was that a large number of the general student population takes the 100 level course in design that were generating costs but were not contributing to the associated revenue. Second, students within the program were concerned with the costs of field trips as well as course fees and desired a greater level of input into intended expenditure patterns. Third, the students desperately wanted to see the program enhanced even if it involved an increase levied on them.

As a result of the above concerns and discussion, it is recommended that they would constitute a student/faculty committee that would review the revenue and expenditures of department program fees on an annual basis to ensure that intended activities and goals are being met. Second, initiate a program fee that leveled out the fee structure, included field trips, and was triggered each semester by enrolling in the primary course offering. The fees currently assessed at the 100 level will be retained so those enrolling will fund and benefit from the fee. Third, the program fee was enhanced to enrich the program over the next five years.

The new fee structure allows the department to eliminate 20 associated course fees. The students and faculty within the department should be commended for their level of involvement in this entire process. It was very evident that a great deal of discussion had occurred to come to the above recommendations.

#### Department of Media Theatre Arts Tuition Surcharge

The department had in place a number of course fees associated with the program. In our original proposal, we recommended that course fees be replaced with a program fee of \$180 per semester. Two items of concern emanated from the recommendation. Similar to Architecture, a large number of the general student population enrolls in the 100 level courses. Second, the fees in this department had not increased for several years and the students expressed a great amount of concern that fees for the program needed to be enhanced even if it involved an increase levied on them.

Our final recommendation is to initiate a program fee of \$200 per semester beginning in the sophomore year. The fees currently assessed at the 100 level will be retained so those enrolling will fund and benefit from the fee. The change in fee structure allows us to eliminate 28 course fees associated with offerings.

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## **MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY – BILLINGS** **New Mandatory Fee – All Students**

### Academic Support Center

FY'02 \$2.80 per student credit hour = \$ 256,700 annually

FY'03 \$2.80 per student credit hour = \$ 256,700 annually

The Academic Support Center is designed to provide support services for all students to improve their chance for academic success and improve retention. The center provides individual as well as small group study, tutorials, and classes designed to improve students' academic skills. Staff members are available to assist students with class schedules, retention issues, and other support as needed. The Academic Support Center houses the Writing Lab and the Math Lab, two facilities used by students at all academic levels for tutor assisted help with writing, composition, and mathematics. The Center also houses tutorial and skill building software and audio and visual instructional tapes for individual skill development. The Center is estimated to serve 1,200 to 1,500 students annually, including students from very diverse backgrounds and in need of support and assistance transitioning to a University learning environment.

Board of Regents' policy requires the elimination of the mathematics and English course fees previously used to support the Math and English Labs. This new fee of \$2.80 per credit hour replaces the math and English course fees. The actual increase in cost, given the elimination of the math and English course fees, is \$1.29 per credit hour.

If the Regents approve this fee, MSU-Billings will not request an increase in tuition to offset reduced course fees related to Math and English Lab fees. This would change the \$1.40 tuition increase to \$.18 tuition increase.

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## **THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA – HELENA COT** **Program Charge/Tuition Surcharges**

### Electronic Program Fee

The Electronic Program Fee of \$40 per semester will be assessed to all Electronic Majors each semester. It replaces six course fees. The proposal is revenue neutral.

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## **THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA – MONTANA TECH** **New Mandatory Fee**

Proposed new mandatory fee at Montana Tech (North Campus Only)

Tech Learning Center Fee for North Campus Students

This fee is basically to replace the fees lost to the math department when the Regents restructured lab fees. In the past, the math department provided the Tech Learning Center with approximately \$14,000 per year to support the tutoring program, which is the heart of the TLC program. Math tutoring comprises the majority of tutoring costs in the TLC. Furthermore, decreased support of the TLC on the part of the Foundation is anticipated.

The TLC has been given the additional responsibility for all campus retention programs without any substantial increase in funding. Temporary subsidy has been provided by the Residential Life Program, but this should end so that these funds can be used for the living/learning program purposes as intended. The proposed fee will cover these tutoring costs and allow the Center to expand its support services at a minimum level. A writing tutor will likely be added.