



MSU-Northern at Great Falls

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May 19, 2000

Al Johnson, Dean
University of Great Falls
1301 20th Street South
Great Falls, Montana 59405

Dear Al:

Attached is the Level I request by Montana State University-Northern to offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education (K-8) and a minor in Reading (K-12) in Great Falls. Also attached is a copy of a report on distance enrollments submitted last year to Joyce Scott and a Student Educational Plan advising sheet designating the nine courses that would be added to the Great Falls schedule to complete the full degree offerings.

Citizen career needs, and degree completion and social patterns; school districts need for employees; state-wide demographics; and the accelerating changes in higher education provision for access and opportunity is in constant and accelerated change. Since restructuring of higher education in Montana there have been many changes in the way higher education institutions must and will work together. The decision to propose these degree programs is one response to such changes. MSU-Northern is committed to graduating qualified teachers to fill the needs confronting Montana schools, including the Great Falls area.

At our meeting of May 3, 2000 we agreed that I would meet with Dr. Arlene Hett, Dean of Education, to discuss the proposal and the potential for cooperation. Arlene and I met on May 11 and came to the conclusion that we could not agree that Northern should offer the Elementary Education and Reading degree completion in Great Falls. We have conversed at several previous meetings on the specifics; thus, we understood the basis for the objection. The education program at the University of Great Falls produces one of the largest numbers of graduates and is central to the University's service to the region. Dr. Hett consistently stresses the quality of the program and the detrimental impact of any loss of enrollment and resources.

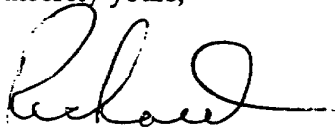
Notably, we generally acknowledged that there may be areas for mutual cooperation and benefit, several previously discussed, as well as areas that UGF does not offer that are in Northern's OPI approved list. Exploratory conversations should be between the two education deans to further explore those opportunities. However, since Dr. Tande will be leaving Northern in late June, it will be necessary to wait until a new dean is in place.

The University of Great Falls is invited to present information that would address the intended outcome of this proposal to meet the needs of working adults in Great Falls. A formal response to the proposal that would address cooperation is welcome. The University may choose to transmit an objection that would be included as the proposal is forwarded to Dr. David Duly, Provost of MSU-Bozeman, for

review and transmittal to the Board of Regents. The University may delay objection until the proposal is placed on the Regents agenda. Northern intends to forward the proposal to MSU-Bozeman Provost Duly by the end of June 2000; therefore, a letter to be included in the proposal packet should be forwarded to Roger Barber, Provost, by June 20th.

Al, thank you for the open discussion of the changes that present different and new opportunities for our work. There are many ways the two universities will find to cooperate.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard G. Fisher".

Richard G. Fisher
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Cc Arlene Hett
 Roger Barber
 Mike Rao
 Korinne Tande
 Will Weaver
 Rolf Groseth