



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

May 11, 2000

TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Joyce A. Scott, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs
SUBJECT: Level I Announcements & Approvals

This memo is to inform you of the Level I changes in academic programs approved in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education since the last meeting of the Board of Regents. I will be happy to answer questions about these changes.

Montana State University College of Technology at Great Falls

Request to change the name of the Legal Assistant Option in Computerized Office Technology to Attorney's Assistant. This change was advocated by the program's advisory committee, which noted that the term "legal assistant" is used interchangeably in statute with the term "paralegal." The College's Legal Assistant Option does not prepare paralegals for the workforce. The relevant statute is MCA 37-60-101 (12).

Request to impose an Academic Program Moratorium on the College's Occupational Therapy Assistant program. Low enrollments and low placement rates necessitate the moratorium; in the next year, the College will continue to explore ways to make the program more viable, including offering it on-line. The Phase I procedures from the Program Termination Checklist have been or are being carried out.

Request from the College of Technology at Great Falls and Montana State University Northern to extend degree-granting authority from MSU-Northern to MSU--Great Falls College of Technology for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Design Drafting Technology when that program is offered in Great Falls and students complete the program there. The curriculum will remain the same. The signed agreement of the two campuses is on file.

Montana Tech of the University of Montana

Request to add a geoscience minor to the major in geological engineering.

Western Montana College of the University of Montana

Request to offer the AAS in Early Childhood Education in cooperation with MSU Northern in Havre effective Fall. WMC has received approval from the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

Dawson Community College

Request to change the option titles of the A.A.S. degree program option from Computer Support Technology - Software Specialist Track to Computer Support Technology - Software Specialist and from Computer Support Technology - System Support Track to Computer Support Technology - System Manager. The latter change reflects curricular changes resultant from adding Cisco Certified Networking Associate courses. The addition of these courses changes the focus of the curriculum.

Request to change the title of Office Technology - Administrative Assistant - Medical Option to Office Technology - Administrative Assistant - Medical Transcription Option to respond to changes in market demand. The revised program includes an increase in medical transcription training (8 credits as opposed to 3), and 8 semester credits of course work in pharmacology, diseases, lab and surgical procedures, and medical ethics and science.

Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC)

In response to requests from employers and local human resource managers, Flathead Valley Community College requests to offer Associate of Applied Science degree program in Human Resources Management. This degree would require 64 credits. The Flathead Valley Society for Human Resource Managers met with FVCC faculty to develop the program. FVCC currently offers all required courses but one, "Train the Trainer," that will be taught by a current faculty member. There will be no additional costs associated with this program. This program will go through Level II review if there is interest in continuing it beyond two years.

Request to replace Management Information Systems - LAN Management Certificate with a Network Architecture Certificate to respond to the needs of local and state employers who require individuals be prepared for the operation of networking hardware and software. Students who complete this 33 credit certificate will be eligible for CISCO certification. The required CISCO equipment will be donated to the program from the Flathead Valley Community College Foundation. This program will go through Level II review if there is interest in continuing it beyond two years.

Request to offer a Goldsmithing Bench Certificate, requiring 62 credits based on the Jewelers of America standards. Students who complete this program will be eligible to take the Jewelers of America exam for JA Certified Bench Technician (First Level). During the spring of 2000, Professional Goldsmithing Advisory Board members recommended that FVCC develop a Bench Certificate to meet local, state and regional needs because FVCC has one of the few Professional Goldsmithing programs in the United States. This prepares students for entry level bench positions in the jewelry industry and/or for further study and testing in the field of jewelry manufacturing. This would be the only Bench Certificate in the Northwest. This program will go through Level II review if there is interest in continuing it beyond two years.

Cc: Commissioner Crofts
Chief Academic Officers
Sherry Rosette