



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

2500 Broadway diamond PO Box 203101 diamond Helena, Montana 59620-3101
(406)444-6570 diamond FAX (406)444-1469

March 1, 2002

TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Joyce A. Scott, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs
RE: Preliminary Report from Montana University System (MUS) Transfer Audit

Five months ago, in response to the Board's interest in transfer issues, I designed a "transfer audit" to be conducted using the MUS Data Warehouse. Mary Craigle began working on the protocol and produced reports. When I shared the reports with the academic officers from the four-year campuses, they questioned the numbers and urged us to redo them. Since December 20, we have identified many inconsistencies in the ways campuses are entering data and the data they choose to enter as well as problems with the extraction processes.

Despite the problems, we have produced one report that will be useful in assessing the status of transfer into the MUS (attached). SCT consultants assure us that the data in this study are sound, so I will outline the findings below.

The population is students who completed a bachelor's degree in Spring 2001. There were 2635 students taking 2697 bachelor's degrees, meaning that 62 students took double degrees. For the study, we count each student only once.

Table I:

Table with 2 columns: Metric and Description. Metrics include # BA/BS, % of Total, #Students, #/% w Transfer, % Stu w Transfer, and # Stu >60 2-year.

Table I shows that more than half the graduates at Billings, Bozeman, Missoula and Western had transfer credits. Additionally, more than one-third of the students graduating in Spring 2001 transferred more than 60 credits of two-year college credit.

Table II shows the difference in average total hours toward the BA/BS degree between students who took all work at the degree-granting campus and those who transferred. These differences range from a low of 6-9 credits at the University of Montana, Montana Tech and MSU-Billings to a high of 16-18 credits at MSU-Bozeman, MSU-Northern and UM-Western respectively. The low numbers at three campuses are quite remarkable and show careful planning and good advising while the higher numbers at the other three campuses are unexceptionable.

Pc: Commissioner Crofts
Chief Academic Officers