M O N T A N A   B O A R D   O F   R E G E N T S

LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	136-1503-R0707	Date of Meeting:	July 11-12, 2007
Institution:	Montana Tech of The University of Montana		
Program Title:	Proposed merger of The College of Mathematics & Sciences and The College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Information Technology into a new college – The College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

Level II action requested (check all that apply):   Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

☐	1.	Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
☐	2.	Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
☐	3.	Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
☐	4.	Expand/extend approved mission; and
X	5.	Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

Specify Request:

Montana Tech of The University if Montana requests permission to merge two existing colleges (The College of Mathematics & Sciences and The College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Information Technology) into one new college – The College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies.

ITEM: 136-1503-R0707
Institution: Montana Tech of The University of Montana Tech
Program Title: College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies

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1. Overview

   In January 2001, Chancellor Gilmore commissioned a campus-wide task force to study the organizational structure at Montana Tech. The task force was comprised of faculty, staff and student representatives. The task force submitted eight recommendations to Chancellor Gilmore. Over the course of the past six years, the campus has implemented five of the eight recommendations (i.e., Deans should not be department heads, the director of the Graduate School should report to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research, etc.). The campus believes that now is the appropriate time to implement one of the remaining task force recommendations – combine the College of Mathematics and Sciences (CMS) with the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Information Technology (HSSIT). The new college will be known as the College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies (LSPS).

2. Need

   Montana Tech's strategic plan identifies the need for additional personnel on the Tech campus that currently do not have a line item in the university's budget. For example, the campus has determined that a full-time webmaster is needed to further the institution's mission (Tech currently has funded a half-time webmaster.). The salary savings from eliminating one dean's position will be used to support other needed positions on campus which currently are unfunded.

3. Institutional and System Fit

   As mentioned in the previous sections, the proposed merger will enable Montana Tech of The University of Montana to address items in Tech's strategic plan. The merger will also "streamline" Tech's academic reporting structure, as recommended by the campus-wide task force.

4. Program Details

   Montana Tech of The University of Montana is currently comprised of four colleges/schools. Three of the colleges/schools are "North Campus" entities (College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Information Technology, College of Mathematics and Sciences, and the School of Mines and Engineering) while the fourth college is the College of Technology, located on the "South Campus."

   The College of Mathematics and Sciences currently houses seven academic departments: Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Geochemistry, Computer Science, General Science, Health Care Informatics, Networking Technologies, and Professional and Technical Communication.

The College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Information Technology currently houses four academic departments: Business and Information Technology, Liberal Studies, Networking Technologies, and Professional and Technical Communication.

The College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies would house the eleven academic departments listed previously and the new college would be of similar size as The School of Mines and Engineering in terms of student enrollment, faculty FTE, etc.

The College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies will be of similar size as the School of Mines and Engineering in terms of the number of academic departments, students, and FTE faculty.

5. Resources

No additional faculty resources will be required to implement this change. The current Dean of the College of Mathematics and Sciences has agreed to serve as the Dean of the proposed college. The former Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Information Technology was selected as the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research in January 2007. The Dean of the College of Mathematics and Sciences is also currently serving as the Interim Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Information Technology.

6. Assessment

The efficacy of the new college should be readily apparent to Tech's administration. The administration plans on evaluating the merger after one year to determine if the expected efficiencies were gained by the campus.

7. Process Leading to Submission

In January 2007, Montana Tech's Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research held two faculty meetings: one with the faculty of the College of Mathematics and Sciences and one with the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Information Technology's faculty. The meetings were held to discuss a proposed merger of the two colleges and solicit input from the faculty members involved. Any benefits/drawbacks of the proposed merger were discussed and faculty were encouraged to provide additional input to administration either in person or via email. Numerous faculty took advantage of this offer and, while the proposed merger was not embraced by 100% of the faculty involved, the majority of faculty providing input were in favor of the merger. The faculty realized the economies that will result from the merger will benefit the institution as a whole.

Once the decision was made to merge the two colleges, faculty were then asked to provide potential names for the new college. Faculty provided their input to the Dean of the College of Mathematics and Sciences who then held a meeting of the faculty to select a new name from the list of proposed names. The faculty selected the College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies as the name for the new college. The faculty felt that this name would best represent the diverse areas represented by the new college.