

ITEM 144-101-R0809

Adoption of Revised and Repealed Board of Regents Policies

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education revises Policies 501.1, Honor Scholarships; 801.3, Leave Without Pay; 803.2, Optional Retirement Program; 940.25, Rural Physician Incentive Program; and repeals Policy 405, Montana Center for Gerontology.

EXPLANATION

Last fall, the commissioner of higher education initiated a comprehensive board of regents' policy review. This review is intended to bring our policies current, remove out-dated references and provisions, and ensure consistency among policies. The policies in this group contain substantive changes which require Board of Regents' approval:

Policy 405 – Montana Center for Gerontology – MSU requests repeal of BOR Policy 405. The Center for Gerontology is no longer an active program on the MSU campus and it is not anticipated that it will be funded or reactivated in the near future.

Policy 501.1 – Honor Scholarships – Outdated language relating to the effective date of the 2006 changes to the policy has been removed. Also, after two years of experience, the commissioner's office has learned that rounding to just one decimal point is more equitable for all students, thus it is recommended that the references to 3.400 GPAs be revised to "3.4" GPAs in order to avoid confusion among students and counselors."

Policy 801.3 – Leave Without Pay. The current policy addresses leaves of absence without pay and requires that all leaves without pay be approved by the Board of Regents. Since the regents have delegated authority over professional and administrative contracts to the commissioner and the campus CEOs for the most part, this policy is outdated. The commissioner recommends that it be revised as follows: the BOR will approve leaves without pay for the commissioner, campus CEOs, and cabinet-level administrators at the office of the commissioner of higher education. The commissioner will approve leaves for all other employees at the office of the commissioner of higher education. The campus CEOs will approve leaves for all other campus faculty and administrative staff. The policy has also been restructured and reworded.

Policy 803.2 – Optional Retirement Program. The changes to this policy provide clarification that the Optional Retirement Program has eligibility requirements, particularly that employees be eligible for university system group health benefits.

Policy 940.25 – Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program. The commissioner of higher education is expressly made a member of the advisory committee under this program. It would be more flexible if the commissioner could delegate this task. The suggested revision would allow this.

ATTACHMENTS: BOR Policies 405, 501.1, 801.3, 803.2, and 940.25