

June 12, 2009

Mick Robinson, Deputy Commissioner
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Dear Mick:

Attached is a modified list of Montana Western new course fees still under review. In an effort to clarify these proposed fees, the list breaks down the fees into several categories: Pass-through; New course including a new fee; Existing course adding a new fee; Fee cancelled for an existing course (the course continues without a course fee); and Existing course and its fee cancelled. We have also included formal documentation for a fee which provides a more economical approach for in-service teachers to take required continuing education. This fee has been charged by UMW Outreach but not formally approved through the fee process.

Montana Western's Experience One program's block format of offering one course for three hours per day for 18 days allows faculty to provide unique experiential learning activities, such as field trips, longer labs, more in depth art projects, more time in K-12 classrooms and special speakers. Moving a whole curriculum to take full advantage of the block program is a process of evolution and refinement. Montana Western has been encouraging faculty to take greater advantage of block scheduling to continue to provide in-depth unique experiential learning opportunities. During the course of the last two years the faculty in Art, Business, and Education through program review and curriculum development have been moving to fully integrate the new schedule more to the level already developed in math and the sciences. A curriculum and the attached course fees will always be a fluid process if quality is to be maintained.

Therefore, the new courses with fees, the new fees on existing courses, and the cancelled courses and fees are outcomes of this extensive review and curriculum process. These fee changes reflect additional experiences available due to block scheduling such as bigger art projects including being able to bronze a sculpture, travel expenditures for expert guest speakers from the discipline, additional field trips and more lab supplies necessary for longer lab sessions.

The new fees and changes in the Equine Science/Natural Horsemanship arena fit under the description above but are also an extension of the development of a new program. In the letter accompanying the fees in 2007, it was stated that UMW would be using this biennium to determine if a larger program/super tuition fee would be required for these new degrees. After consideration over the last two years, charging particular course fees related to the consumables of that particular class appears to be a better and more economical solution for the students.

Two other fees require some explanation. One is the pass through fee in Health and Human Performance. This fee, listed at the maximum amount that could be charged, is a variable fee depending upon what activity is involved in that class for any particular block. The fee is to pay

for off campus venues for bowling, golfing, swimming fees, skiing, snowboarding or to provide student's expendable objects such as handballs, tennis balls, etc. The maximum fee would only be charged for skiing and snowboarding and in all cases the fee will reflect the cost of the activity required to teach the Individual & Dual Sport Methods & Techniques class during a particular block.

Western is also asking for approval of a \$7.00 fee related to continuing education units (CEU) for in-service teachers. An explanation is attached as an addendum to this letter.

Montana Western carefully considers all fee decisions with both an eye to providing enriching quality programs and to student access and affordability. We are happy to further discuss any of these fees with you if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Briggs

Vice Chancellor, Administration, Finance, & Student Affairs