

November 19-20, 2009

Montana State University-Bozeman Requesting Authorization to Assume Responsibility for Two-year Programming and to Award Two-Year Degrees Currently Offered by MSU-Great Falls in the Gallatin Valley

For over a decade, MSU–Great Falls has extended aspects of its programming to the Gallatin Valley to respond to demand for two-year programming there. In 2004 and 2005, the programming of MSU–Great Falls in Bozeman expanded significantly with a comprehensive set of developmental courses and services at MSU and the introduction of career/technical programs. In the 2008-09 academic year, MSU–Great Falls served 1,063 students. Of these, 851 were MSU-Bozeman degree seeking students in developmental courses and 212 “COT in Bozeman” extension students who were not seeking a degree or who were seeking the Associate of Applied Science degree in Interior Design or Aviation Technology or the Certificate of Applied Science in Welding.

The “COT in Bozeman” extension of MSU–Great Falls has been successful in many respects. However, it has strained the fiscal and human resources of MSU–Great Falls. For four of the past five years, expenses have exceeded revenue. This figure does not take into account the impact of the extensive time, travel, and communications required for the Great Falls campus to operate the program in an effective manner in Bozeman.

Because of the work that the Great Falls campus has done in working with community leaders to assess workforce needs and begin to bring up programs to meet those needs, numerous local business and education leaders have indicated to President Gamble that transitioning this effort to the Bozeman campus would create a situation in which there could be a greater sense of ownership by and accountability to the community.

For these reasons, MSU–Great Falls proposes to phase out its extended programming in Bozeman. At the same time, recognizing the value and the potential of the two-year education mission on its campus and in its community, MSU-Bozeman wishes to accept responsibility to sustain and grow the current programs and to capitalize on the momentum for new programs by expanding its academic menu to include the offering of two-year degrees. The campus will utilize both institutional and individual program advisory committees and a management advisory committee made up of two-year experts from the MUS.

Montana State University-Bozeman will request authorization to assume operational control for two-year developmental and workforce programming in the Gallatin Valley from MSU-Great Falls College of Technology; authorizes MSU-Bozeman to offer the Associate of Applied Science degrees in Aviation Technology, Design Drafting, and Interior Design and the Certificate of Applied Science in Welding Technology, beginning in the Fall Semester of 2010; and authorizes MSU-Bozeman to grow all aspects of two-year programming in the Gallatin Valley.