

ITEM 151-1604-R0511

Authorization for Program Tuition for the Natural Horsemanship A.A.S. and B.S. Degrees; The University of Montana Western

THAT

The Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes The University of Montana Western to charge a Program Tuition of \$1,500/semester for the A.A.S. and B.S. Degrees.

EXPLANATION

The Natural Horsemanship programs require all enrolled students to provide a horse for the skill development portion of their program. Students are currently required to provide room and board for their horses and transport their horses to La Cense Montana, where most of the horse training skills are taught. Students currently pay all of these expenses privately. While their expenses vary, they are in the range of the proposed fee. Equine programs typically have extra costs for their students. For example, the Rocky Mountain College Equestrian Studies program charges students a \$2620 fee per semester.

Attached documentation presented to the Board at the September 2010 meeting, explains the building of the Southwestern Montana Horsemanship Center which will be a private non-profit facility. Montana Western will enter a use agreement with the facility to enhance the program. The university would use this fee to provide a classroom arena, practice arena, and on-site horse boarding in a closer and more convenient facility for the students.

The proposed tuition will pay for the student's horse boarding and arena use. It would also alleviate the need for most other course fees within the Natural Horsemanship programs and help pay for lab supplies, equipment, as well as some of the travel required by students in the programs as well as horse room and board.

This tuition will be built into the student's financial aid budget as a cost of their particular program because the Natural Horsemanship degree(s) require the student to bring a horse to Dillon which will be a real benefit for the students. This also addresses safety concerns for students.

The fee will begin the semester when the Center is open and ready for horse boarding.

ATTACHMENTS

"A" Information Item September 22-23, 2010