

**ITEM 156-1601-R0912**

**Ratification of an Amendment to UM-Western Use Agreement For Lease of The Montana Center for Horsemanship for the UMW Natural Horsemanship Program, Approved in November 2011, Item 153-1601-R1111**

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**THAT**

The Board of Regents of Higher Education hereby approves the amendment to the use agreement which has been entered into for lease of a facility for the use of the UM-Western Natural Horsemanship Program, in accordance with the lease approved by the Board of Regents with the Montana Center for Horsemanship in November, 2011.

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**EXPLANATION**

The Board of Regents approved a natural horsemanship program at UM-Western via Item 126-1601-R0105 (January, 2005) and approved its continuation via Item 130-1601-R0106 (January, 2006). The Board of Regents was made aware of the opportunity for the program to access the Southwestern Montana Horsemanship Center (now The Montana Center for Horsemanship), a more convenient and efficient facility than otherwise available to the program in September, 2010. In May of 2011, the regents approved a tuition increase for the program to allow for the use of the Center. In November of 2011, the regents approved the lease agreement with The Montana Center for Horsemanship.

Due to the continued strong growth in the Natural Horsemanship program, now with over 80 majors, it is necessary for the Center to build another 24-stall barn to accommodate the program. To make this investment, the Center desires to change the guaranteed rental from 56 stalls to 72 stalls, a change of \$36,000 per year. Western has the need and resources to agree to this commitment. Western's long term plan is to grow the program to 125 students.

The amendment is a 5-year commitment to the use of The Montana Center for Horsemanship, which changes the guaranteed price from \$126,000 per year to \$162,000 per year. Western has concluded, based on current and emerging enrollment in the program, the value the new Center brings to the program and with continued BOR approval of the program tuition, it can meet these obligations for the lease period.

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**ATTACHMENTS**