

From: Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman

To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Level II items that are being proposed for your review and action at the September 2019 meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and community colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

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### **Montana State University - Bozeman**

#### **Request authorization to establish a M.S. in Bioengineering**

MSU – Bozeman proposes to establish a Master of Science in Bioengineering. Currently, MSU offers both a B.S. and Master of Engineering (ME) in Bioengineering. The ME is a course-work only degree in which students do not typically undertake independent research or write a thesis. The proposed MS will provide a thesis-based option for students seeking advanced training and practical experience applying engineering principles to biological or medical applications to solve a wide range of problems, including challenges in human health, energy, and the environment. A number of students who began the ME in Bioengineering have changed to MS programs in other disciplines so they could conduct research and write a thesis. Bureau of Labor Statistics projections estimate 7% growth in demand for biomedical and biochemical engineers.

This new degree program would leverage existing coursework and should not require new faculty or staff.

*OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve*

#### **Request authorization to retitle the Department of Agricultural Education to the Department of Agricultural and Technology Education**

The name change better reflects the nature of the programs now administered by this department through the College of Agriculture (BS in Technology Education Broadfield Teaching, BS in Technology Education – Industrial Technology, BS in Agricultural Education Broadfield Teaching, and BS in Agricultural Education – Communications, Leadership, and Extension)

*OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve*