

July 28, 2020

ITEM 189-101-S0720

Request for Adoption of the MUS Healthy Fall 2020 Planning Guidelines for Campuses.

THAT

The Board of Regents adopts the Healthy Fall Planning Guidelines established by the MUS Healthy Fall Task Force, as updated on July 16, 2020. The Board instructs the Commissioner of Higher Education to implement the guidelines and authorizes the Commissioner to modify the Healthy Fall Planning Guidelines at his discretion as conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic evolve. This authorization is in place until revoked by the Board, and an item related to the implementation of the Guidelines shall be placed on the agenda of each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board until revocation.

EXPLANATION

The Montana University System Healthy Fall Task Force was established in April 2020 to provide recommendations to campuses for welcoming students back to campus this Fall. The task force consisted of members from across the MUS campuses, including members from academic affairs and student success. Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Dr. Brock Tessman, chaired the committee, which developed a comprehensive set of guidelines in partnership with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The recommendations serve as a system-wide framework for opening the MUS campuses to students, faculty, and staff for Fall 2020 and represent the Task Force's collective understanding of best practices for COVID-19 protocols on campus. Consistent with these recommendations, each campus has developed its own planning guidelines for restoring campus operations in response to COVID-19 and returning to in-person instruction on campus. These plans provide specific steps and protocols for on-campus operations. However, public health recommendations and best practices for stemming the spread of the virus continue to evolve as more is learned about the novel coronavirus. Therefore, OCHE recommends the Board adopt the Healthy Fall 2020 Guidelines and instruct the Commissioner to implement the guidelines with the discretion to make adjustments as conditions and recommendations evolve as provided in this item.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Healthy Fall 2020 Planning Guidelines for Campuses (updated July 16, 2020)