

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 May 2020 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.

Montana State University Bozeman

Establish a Master of Science in Innovation and Management

The proposed Master of Science in Innovation and Management would be a one-year, 30-credit program targeted specifically at developing professional and employability skills in innovation and management for recent engineering and STEM graduates. In partnership with the Montana State University Tech Transfer office and TechLink (a Montana State University center, which facilitates licensing and marketing of Department of Defense intellectual property), students in the program would develop business plans and pursue the commercial success of inventions emerging from MSU's research enterprise or Department of Defense research initiatives. Alternatively, students may pursue business ideas separate from these technology transfer initiatives.

The College anticipates hiring a Director and opening a 1-FTE non-tenure track faculty line to support this program in its first year of operation, with further faculty lines being added as-needed while the program grows. The program will run on a cohort-model, with significant team-based experiential work. The initial cohort will include 25 students.

The University of Montana offers a 2-year Master of Business Administration, which provides traditional graduate-level general business curriculum as well as opportunities for focused coursework leading to certificates in cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, and entertainment management. In the view of OCHE staff, the shorter duration, focus on STEM/Innovation, and link to commercialization and MSU's research enterprise distinguish the proposed M.S. in Innovation and Management from the University of Montana's graduate-level business offerings.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Establish standalone PhD in Mechanical Engineering

Montana State University currently offers a PhD in Engineering, with opportunities for students to focus their work in particular engineering sub-disciplines. This proposed change would reestablish a standalone PhD in Mechanical Engineering. This change is to reflect the growing number of engineering doctoral students focused on mechanical engineering and to assign to the program's doctoral graduates the academic title and credential most appropriate for professional practice in this field. There would be

no duplication of existing programs in the MUS. There would be no direct cost attributable to this change. There would be no changes in reporting lines, program mission, faculty assignments, or duplication of administrative activities.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

The University of Montana Missoula

Establish options in Software Engineering, Data Science, Algorithm Design in the B.S. Computer Science and offer blended delivery

The University of Montana's Computer Science Department proposes to add three options to their existing Computer Science B.S. degree program and allow for blended online/in-person delivery of the program. These options – Software Engineering, Data Science, and Algorithm Design – are closely aligned to specific skillsets being requested of computer science graduates and are intended to provide students a clear path to gather these skills and articulate them to prospective employers on their college transcript. The Computer Science B.S. degree program would remain well-articulated to two-year college's lower-division offerings, in order to facilitate transfer, but would require students to select from one of the three options for their upper-division coursework.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Establish a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

The University of Montana has long held a national reputation for the quality of its creative writing programs. In recent years, the M.F.A. in creative writing has been designated a 'Program of National Distinction' by the university and graduates of the undergraduate creative writing program have won national awards and fellowships. Currently, UM offers a creative writing option within the B.A. in English. Following national trends, this proposal would recast the curriculum of that option to create a new Bachelor of Fine Arts program. The B.F.A. designation will better communicate to students and future employers the contents of the degree and its revised curriculum. Curriculum changes in the revised program would emphasize both the study and practice of creative writing as well as a strong foundation in literature.

This would be the first program of its kind in Montana. No additional courses are proposed, nor would additional staffing be necessary to offer this program of study.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Establish a Bachelor of Arts in World Languages and Cultures, and offer blended delivery

Language specific majors require a high number of sequential credits in the target language. If students do not begin their language study in the first year it is often difficult, if not impossible, to complete a language-specific major in four years. The proposed B.A. in World Languages and Cultures is intended to provide a degree pathway, encompassing both language and cultural studies, that would be more flexible than the traditional single-language pathway. This degree will serve students who: (1) begin studying languages and cultures late in their academic careers and want complete a major which emphasizes a combination of languages and cultures; (2) are interested in comparative approaches to language and cultural studies; and (3) are unable to complete a language-specific major and want to complete a major utilizing the credits earned in language-specific disciplines.

No new courses are required to offer this degree pathway, nor are significant additional personnel expenses anticipated.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana Technological University

Establish a Statistics option in the Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences

Montana Tech's restructuring of academic programs and departments during their mission alignment process led the then standalone statistics department to be merged with the Department of Mathematical Sciences and the closure of a standalone B.S. in Statistics. Since those changes, faculty in the Department have undertaken a process to revise the former statistics curriculum as an option within the B.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

No new courses are required to offer this degree pathway, nor are any additional personnel expenses anticipated.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Rename the Department of Business and Information Technology to the Department of Business

Montana Tech implemented a Bachelor of Science in Business and Information Technology in the mid-1990s as a way to differentiate itself from other business degrees in the state. The newly formed Department adopted the same name at this time. Today, the department feels that inclusion of "Information Technology" in the title of the department may be confusing to students in search of 4-year business programs. The proposal would only change the title of the department. The B.S. in Business and Innovation Technology would remain unchanged.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Rename the Liberal Studies Department to the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

The Liberal Studies department currently houses faculty members teaching Anthropology, Communication, History, Literature, Media Arts, Psychology, Sociology, and Writing. Following campus program prioritization, faculty members from the Professional and Technical Communication department are now housed within the Liberal Studies department. Because of these diverse fields, along with a common misperception and misunderstanding of the adjective "Liberal" the department proposes to rename to become the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Science. This name was chosen because it better encapsulates the diverse fields taught by departmental faculty.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve