

September 15-16, 2021

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Request for Authorization to Revise Policies 301.5, 301.5.1, and 320.3**

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**THAT**

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education brings forward a proposal to revise BOR policies 301.5, 301.5.1 and 320.3 to accommodate US Department of Education changes to accreditation that have removed the designation of “regional” accreditors.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. US Department of Education rules that went into effect in July 2021 remove the designation of certain institutional accrediting bodies as “regional accreditors”.
  2. Current MUS transfer policy requires, at minimum, that campuses apply transfer credits from “regionally accredited” institutions towards the free elective requirements of degree programs, recognizing that these institution’s accreditation procedures are similar in rigor to those applied to MUS campuses (which are all accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, one of the seven accreditation agencies formerly recognized as regional accreditors).
  3. This change would remove the term “regional” from policy and instead list out the seven accrediting agencies.
  4. Campuses retain the ability to accept and apply credits from institutions that are not accredited by one of these seven agencies, provided there is evidence of academic quality in the institution’s faculty and program of study.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment #1: Draft proposed revisions to Policy 301.5
- Attachment #2: Draft proposed revisions to Policy 301.5.1
- Attachment #3: Draft proposed revisions to Policy 320.3