

Rec'd
11-24

Jan
Richard |

MSU-Northern
PO Box 7751
Havre, MT. 59401

Chancellor Mike Rao:

We appreciate Northern Montana College offering classes in Great Falls. We are non-traditional students and your classes allow us to attend night school while keeping our day jobs.

We are respectively looking for different options regarding the 2000 summer course schedule to keep our day jobs, spend time with our families, and stay in Great Falls. The classes that we would like you to consider are: EDUC 347 Speech, Hearing, & Language Development of the Pre-School Child and EDUC 448 Reading materials for the Elementary Child. At present, these classes are not offered or required at UGF.

We would like to see these courses offered here in Great Falls. Some possible suggestions would be hiring current Northern teachers who are qualified, live in Great Falls, and are willing to accommodate our needs. Another option would be to offer these two classes over NorthNet. Our last and least desirable option, if we cannot receive them in Great Falls, would be to have them offered during the same session to reduce travel time to Havre.

We appreciate how MSU-Northern has accommodated our needs in Great Falls in our pursuit of an Elementary Education Degree. We wish MSU-Northern would take the action required to move forward in offering a full Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education here in Great Falls. Due to your program, many of us are now able to attend or return to college. The cost of UGF is astronomical and unrealistic for many of us, the non-traditional student.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We hope to hear from you soon, considering the summer schedule will be decided shortly.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Nugent

Kimberly Albright	Adam Fry	Carly Gjersold
Carle Arnold	Janice	Weidi Stubbs
Cyndee Curtis	John Doe	Angela Mock
Shelley Rummey	Deann Yabber	Gayle Thompson
Melissa Funk	Mark Holberg	Stephanie Baker
Naomi L. Gibson	Jeffrey C. Palmer	Mrs. Moore
Shantelle Dickerson	Julie A. Weigum	Alesha Chaney
Val Agnew	Stephanie M. Hidalgo	Audrey Boling
	Amada Galloma	Ann Toner

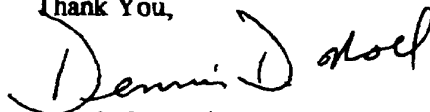
Board of Regents,

I am currently a student of Montana State University-Northern. I understand that there is a decision to be made regarding classes that may be offered to students that live in Great Falls and are enrolled in the teacher education programs. I would like to express that I feel that there is a great need for teachers in Montana as well as around the United States. By offering a choice to students in the area of education, it not only helps the student but also the community as well. Because I live in Great Falls and take classes at COT, MSU-N GF campus and MSU-N Havre campus, I spend four to five hours a day on the road to Havre in order to receive the classes needed for my degree. This is a great hardship to my family as well as the time needed for class preparation. I have heard of many other students that have commuted to Havre to finish their degree.

Many of the students working for a degree in education are nontraditional students and the demands for their time and money are high. It would be a great help to them and their families if they could finish a degree in the town that they reside. It would only make sense that one of the largest cities in Montana would offer a degree that would fulfill the needs of so many in that community.

Great Falls is in the beginning stages of the largest group of teachers to retire in the school systems history. We, as a community, need to replace this group of teachers in the most appropriate and timely manner as possible. I am sure you are aware of the extreme shortage of teachers nation wide and the shortage is coming to Great Falls and well as Montana in the near future. Please help us help ourselves and allow MSU-Northern to offer the classes needed to offset this urgent need for qualified teachers.

Thank You,



Dennis D. Noel

February 28, 2000

Policy 226

Dr. Joyce Scott
Commissioner of Higher Education
P O Box 20301
Helena, MT 59620

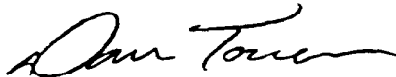
Dear Dr. Scott,

I am a non-traditional student attending Montana State University Northern in Great Falls seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. I have a family, and own a home in Great Falls. Therefore, I cannot afford to pay the tuition of a private college. Also, there is considerable more expense to travel to and from another city to achieve my educational goal.

I am concerned not only as a student enrolled in the MSU Northern program here in Great Falls, but also as a taxpayer. I feel we should be entitled to a full education in view of the fact that MSU Northern is supported by the tax dollars of all Montanans. We should not be forced into other alternatives.

I sincerely hope that you will consider my plea, not only for my family and myself, but also for the scores of students who are in the same circumstance. I thank you for your consideration in this distressing matter.

Sincerely,



Dan Toner
1300 Ave B NW
Great Falls, MT 59404

cc: Chancellor Mike Rao

February 7, 2000

Policy 220

Dr. Joyce Scott
Commissioner of Higher Education
P O Box 20301
Helena MT 59620

Dear Dr. Scott:

I am a non-traditional student who is a mother of three children. I chose Montana State University - Northern - Great Falls to finish my Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education to stay close to home. I had checked years before into attending the University of Great Falls. This was not an option. I could not afford their tuition or attend day classes. I make more money substitute teaching during the day than working at a job at night at a store or fast-food restaurant. In addition, the substitute teaching job allows me the opportunity to learn the perception of a classroom and the school system, which is important to my future profession. Three years ago, I discovered I could pick up many classes I would need to finish my degree at Northern-Great Falls campus.

This year, Fall 1999 and Spring 2000 terms, I have had to take classes at University of Great Falls. I chose University of Great Falls because I did not wish to travel to Havre on the roads in winter. I have had to take these classes during the middle of the day. Due to the higher tuition and loss of wages

(the availability of the class being only during the day) has been an extreme economic hardship on my family. This summer, I will have to travel to Northern Montana College in Havre. The classes I need to student teach in the fall are not offered in Great Falls due to the Board of Regents mandates, which stipulate Northern - Great Falls cannot offer duplicate classes of University of Great Falls. However, some of these classes are not available at University of Great Falls to take. Due to these summer classes in Havre, I will miss the opportunity to work for the Great Falls Public School District in their Summer Literacy Program for grades 6-8, which I have worked for the last two years. This has been a chance to work with school children in a different setting, which is beneficial to my chosen profession as an educator.

Please consider reviewing these mandates. I am at a loss how a private institution can dictate to a taxpayer, what she can or cannot take at a public tax-funded institution. Please help change these mandates, which are gross injustices.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Weigum
3900-6th Avenue South
Great Falls MT 59405

cc: Chancellor Mike Rao

Policy 220

3805 7th Street NE #90
Great Falls, MT 59404
amanut123@aol.com
March 6, 2000

Dr. Joyce Scott
Commissioner of Higher Education
2500 Broadway
P.O. Box 203101
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Dr. Scott,

I am a wife, a mother of three children, and student attending MSU-Northern/Great Falls. The knowledge that I will be unable to complete my Elementary Education degree without either commuting to Havre for the necessary classes, or attending the University of Great Falls is very unsettling. It will be difficult for me to complete my degree under both circumstances. Commuting will put me at risk due to weather, put my family at risk from my absence, and the economical hardship that will affect us will be tremendous. Attending UGF will also put my family in an economical crisis because of the cost of tuition and the time I will lose at my job as a Substitute teacher, and the added daycare cost will be too high for me to afford. MSU-Northern has given me the ability to work, be with my family and continue in my education. The classes offered at night are a blessing and the cost is affordable.

The Board of Regents will be meeting up in Havre later this month, and I hope that some of the hurdles that are blocking my path, along with the other students I attend school with, can be removed so that we all may be successful in completing our education. The Policy and Procedure Manual of the Board states:

"Higher education centers which duplicate existing undergraduate programs offered by a community college or an independent college in its respective local community will not be established by a Montana University System institution unless the affected community college or independent college signifies its approval of the offering in writing to the Commissioner of Higher Education."

There is a problem with this statement that may be fixed at the next meeting. This signifies the Board of Regents willingness to restrict local students from obtaining a degree. The feeling of being forced to attend a school that I avoided in the first place is too strong to ignore.

The University of Great Falls will not approve of our education program because it feels threatened by the prospect of the competition. Representatives for UGF have stated their opinion several times in both past and recent community editorials, in which students and the school of MSU-Northern, have been maligned and insulted. The attacks on the reputation of the students and facility of MSU-Northern should be stopped.

The Policy and Procedure Manual for the Board of Regents continues with;

7. inter-institutional relations

a. When more than one institution conducts programs through a higher education center in the same community, the Commissioner of Higher Education shall be responsible for establishing policies and procedures to insure necessary program coordination.

b. If concerns arise about potential competition between an independent or community college and units of the Montana University System in the development of higher education centers, the Commissioner of Higher Education may incorporate measures for addressing the problems..."

So stated, I plead with you on the behalf of all students attending Montana State University-Northern at Great Falls, not only to uphold the policies the Board of Regents abides by, but also making necessary changes in the Policy and Procedure Manual. Times have changed and the need for a facility that can offer the needed courses, at an affordable price is great.

Given a chance, our facilities should be able to continue servicing both traditional and non-traditional students seeking degrees in Elementary Education. The need for Teachers is phenomenal, and the resources are available if the classes needed to complete the degree are allowed to be conducted at the Great Falls campus.

I beg you to consider allowing the students of MSU-Northern/Great Falls onto the agenda at the upcoming meeting in Havre. We are willing to discuss these problems if the Board will listen.

Thank you so much for your valuable time.

Sincerely,



Angela Mock
3805 7th Street NE #90
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-771-1966
amanut123@aol.com

cc: Mike Rao
Dr.. Richard Fisher

March 7, 2000

Policy 220

Dear Sir or Madam;

"I have a dream" is a very famous speech from Martin Luther King Jr. Fulfilling this dream is what he lived and died for. I also have a dream, to become an elementary school teacher. To succeed in this goal, I too will have many sacrifices along the way. I am a father of six children and am trying to balance a job while attending MSU-NORTHERN-GREAT FALLS in the evenings. Being a nontraditional student I do not have the luxury of being mobile. I would also like to address the financial aspect of going back to school. I cannot afford to pay approximately three times more tuition at the University of Great Falls over MSU-NORTHERN.

I hope the members of the Board of Regents also have a dream: to insure every citizen of the great state of Montana is able to get a quality higher education at an affordable price. We need teachers, we need quality teachers, we need teachers that aren't up to their eyeballs in debt because of a mandate that restricts their choices, we need teachers. I would like to thank-you for taking the time to read my letter and hope through your decision I am able to continue on with my education here in Great Falls at MSU-NORTHERN.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Thompson

**Randy R. Thompson
13696 Hwy 200
Sun River, Mt. 59483**

3805 7th St NE #147
Great Falls, MT 59404

March 8, 2000

Dear Board of Regents,

I am a student at Montana State University-Northern. I am seeking a degree in elementary education. As a student seeking an elementary education degree, it has been very hard on my family and myself to try to find classes that are offered in Great Falls so I will not have to leave my family for any length of time to attend classes in Havre.

By attending MSU-Northern, I am getting a quality education while keeping the cost of my education down.

Because the education program is not offered at the Great Falls campus that means that I would have to leave my family to travel up to Havre to get all of the classes that I need for my degree. This is an inconvenience for my family and me. By bringing the education program to Great Falls it would mean I would not have to travel to Havre and I would not have to leave my family. This would be a great opportunity for everyone involved.

I have heard people say that bringing the education program to Great Falls would be considered unnecessary duplication. This would not be the case, as the University of Great Falls is a private school.

MSU-Northern would benefit greatly by bringing the education program to Great Falls. It allows people in the Great Falls area to attend school close by so they will not have to travel to Havre. It could open doors for people who thought getting an education degree would mean they would have to travel to get it.

Sincerely,

April Warman

To: Montana State Board of Regents

Subject: Expansion of the Education Program At MSU Great Falls Campus

From : Scott J. Woodland, TSgt, USAF

Dear Regents,

I am a non-traditional student at the Great Falls campus seeking a degree in teaching in the secondary schools in science and social science. I am also on active duty with the Air Force at Malmstrom AFB where I am an electrician in the Civil Engineer Squadron.

I feel somewhat distressed by the rumored discontinuance of the education program at the MSU Great Falls campus currently offered by MSU Northern for several reasons. First, as a non-traditional student I must work to support my family during the day-time hours. The fact that I am in the military limits my ability to attend classes outside of Great Falls.

Second, the tuition charged at MSU Northern is very reasonable. My wife and I are both enrolled at MSU Great Falls campus in the education Program. We have a family of eight and naturally have to be as cost conscious as possible. Although a similar program is offered at UGF, we, as a family, cannot afford to attend school there even with our PELL Grants and my Air Force tuition assistance. Our socioeconomic status is such that our only option for continuing our education and employment opportunities after the Air Force is in the comparable program at MSU Great Falls campus. Instead of reducing or eliminating the Education Program I would encourage you to expand this program by offering a degree granting program to aid others in similar fiscal constraints the opportunity to follow their dreams of teaching in the Montana Public School System.

In closing I would like to say that as a tax paying resident of Montana I feel it is in all our best interest to provide affordable education opportunities to the citizens of our beautiful "Big Sky Country", including Great Falls. I hope you will all support Chancellor Mike Rao in his effort to bring affordable options to the markets of Great Falls, Lewistown and Kalispell without unfairness issues being raised.

Respectfully



Scott Woodland

Policy 220

Havre. This, too, will cause financial hardship as well as emotional hardship for my children and me.

As a mother wishing to better her life and in turn better the lives of her children, I ask you to review the current status of the Teacher Education Program here in Great Falls. Please allow this program to be offered to me and the many other people here in the Great Falls area. We all would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Woodland

Lucinda Woodland
3 3rd St. S.
Box 585
Cascade, MT 59421

Cc: Chancellor Mike Rao
Dr. Richard Fisher
Ed Jasmin, Vice Chairman
Jeremy Fritz, Student Regent

Lynn Morrison-Hamilton
Margie Thompson
Richard Roehm
Deborah Wetsit

Distinguished Regents,

I represent a group of over 30 dedicated students pursuing educational degrees at the MSU Great Falls Campus. We are taking classes from College of Technology and Northern while seeking our degrees through Northern. Each one of us has written letters to you explaining our various situations and desires for education and our dreams of teaching in the public education system of Montana.

We are Montanans by birth, adoption, or choice and we feel we are having our right to an affordable education taken away from us without our voice being heard or our interests considered. As taxpaying citizens we have a right to affordable educational opportunities for our children and ourselves. For years the brightest and the best of our working class children had to leave the Great Falls area to pursue their educational goals due to the fiscal constraints of their families. Many have even found it cheaper to go out of state than to stay in Great Falls and seek their degrees. Until recently there has been no facility for our children or ourselves to benefit from the tax supported programs of the Montana University system. Local collegiate matriculation was reserved for the select few able to afford the tuition of a private institution. Many greeted the opening of Northern's Great Falls office with the hope of a bright new tomorrow for the middle class youth and nontraditional students of the electric city. The consolidation of all branches of the university system present in our city into the MSU Great Falls campus was applauded by local citizens and civic leaders as a step forward for a city struggling to keep a stable, educated work force desperately needed for real economic growth. Everyone cheered except the private institution that had faithfully educated those able to meet its costs. The press carried the news to a shocked growing student body of

education majors at the newly expanded campus last fall. Critics said Northern had broken the agreement made by you, the Regents, when it offered a “duplicate” degree program just across the street from the campus of the University of Great Falls.

The mission statement of the Montana Board of Regents states “Montana’s community colleges, independent colleges, and units of the University system share the responsibility to maximize the availability of educational opportunities for the state’s Citizens ... enhance quality while minimizing unnecessary duplication of effort ... (duplication is defined as an exact copy). Concurrently, these institutions must insure that the state’s resources are used in a prudent and responsible manner.” A duplicate program would be cost comparable as well as similar in quality and function. One out of three is not a duplicate. It is irresponsible to force citizens of the Great Falls area, who are seeking to help fill the shortage of teachers in Montana, to abandon their homes and community; quit their jobs and relocate to a locale with the an education program they can afford or spend more than twice the state-funded school’s price in tuition locally? The potential harm to all of us currently enrolled in the program at MSU Great Fall’s campus is immeasurable.

No one will argue the end result of the programs in question looks like duplication at first glance. All students who successfully complete either program receive certification from the state as a teacher. However, close scrutiny reveals few of us enrolled at MSU’s Great Falls campus in education are traditional students. All of us attend classes at night because we have jobs, children to care for and numerous other commitments on our time during the day. Many of us currently are running two income families just to make ends meet and are geographically bound to the Great Falls area by

those jobs which prevent us from attending MSU Northern's campus here in Havre. These eight or nine students you see here with me today have taken precious time off work to attend these proceedings which may decide whether or not we can finish our education as planned or put our plans on hold until we can "better" afford it. All of us in the program are wage earners, blue collar Montanans, who want to make a difference in the future of our communities and our state. All of us feel we can help mold the leaders we will need tomorrow by educating them today. Many of us substitute daily in the Great Falls area to help meet the need for teachers that has reached critical proportions. Northern's program has been designed for us, the seasoned workers, who want to help our community into the future and can't attend daytime classes. We provide stability because our roots are deep and we want to teach here, in Montana, not in Washington, Idaho or Utah.

Currently the price of an education from the University of Great Falls is more than double that at MSU Great Falls per semester hour and it is projected to go even higher. Most of us rely on various forms of tuition assistance, like PELL grants, to pay for our education. Never the less, most of us in the education program still require student loans to meet our educational expenses. This would amount to a possible debt totaling almost \$10,000 verses \$4000, depending on individual circumstances, on top of financial obligations incurred with raising children, owning homes and simply existing in Great Falls.

Duplication is an exact copy. Duplication does not exist in the programs offered by the two universities in Great Falls. I urge you, the Regents of the Montana Board of Higher Education, to look at the benefit to the second largest economic center in the state

of having a highly educated workforce ready to press forward the economic plan of the state as the new millennium unfolds. Help us keep the children of our middle class here in "Charlie Russell's Country" by keeping those willing to teach them rooted deeply where they have settled to raise their families and build their communities on solid foundations. You have a sacred trust for the educational welfare of our citizens here in the Big Sky. Help Great Falls achieve its potential as a center of learning and education by allowing students from the working class to continue reaching for their dreams. Help the communities of Montana stop the exportation of their most priceless commodity, our youth. The value of our life experiences in the classroom ^{are} ~~is~~ immeasurable. ^W Without the support of you the regents ⁿ ~~N~~on traditional students will never achieve their rightful place in the classroom. Support Chancellor Rao in his efforts to expand educational opportunities in the Great Falls area through MSU Great Falls campus. Help us the nontraditional students achieve our potential in giving to the future generations by keeping an essential program flourishing at MSU Great Falls. Thank you.

Alan D. Ekblad
137 Gerber Road
Great Falls MT 59405
Home: 406-452-9614
Work: 406-761-8626

March 20, 2000

TRANSMITTED VIA FAX

Mr. Patrick Davison, Chairman
Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education
2916 Joan Lane
Billings MT 59102

Dear Mr. Davison:

As the Board of Regents decides whether or not to modify or eliminate Policy 220, I'm sure the issues you must address are diverse and delicate. For me, it is much more simple, I believe the policy needs to be changed because if through the use of Policy 220 the teaching program at MSU-Northern is eliminated, I will not be able to convert my bachelor's degree from Bozeman into a teaching degree.

As the working father of two young boys, I simply can't afford the tuition at the University of Great Falls (UGF). I work full-time as field staff for the Montana State AFL-CIO and my wife works full-time as a FAIM Coordinator (welfare case worker) for the state. By Montana standards we have pretty decent jobs. But we live in a nice home and our boys attend a private Catholic school so during the course of a year, I still need to work other jobs or accept contract work. I'm not complaining because I choose to send my kids to a private school and I like my home, but the reality is that there isn't time, nor do I have the energy, to work a third or fourth job so that I can afford tuition at a private college.

In addition to the financial constraints that prohibit me from attending UGF, the schedule of classes they offer does not work for me. As I stated previously, I work full-time as field staff for the state labor federation. My service area is everything on the Hi-Line east of Chester and I travel three to four days a week. It is impossible for me to attend classes that are held during the day or spread out through the course of a work week.

Aside from my concerns regarding my personal situation, I would also like to share some other information with you that I believe is important as you make your decision. Montana currently ranks first in the nation for the number of workers who hold two or more jobs to survive. At the same time, we rank very close to, or at the bottom, of all fifty states in actually family income. We rank high in the number of workers who work more than forty hours per week, but low in the number that receive health insurance. This is not an economic environment in which most working class people are going to be able to afford to attend a private institution.

I want to address one final point related to the costs of the program. We are talking about educating teachers. The average starting salary for a teacher in Montana is somewhere around \$20,000 per year. You cannot service much of a debt load on \$20,000 per year and although I am neither a financial wizard nor a financial aid officer, I would be willing to make a really big bet that the average student loan of a UGF student is a lot bigger than a MSU-Northern student. Montana needs more teachers. If I remember correctly, the Great Falls school district alone lost somewhere around seventy teachers this year. I think the Board of Regents needs to be doing everything in its power to encourage and assist people who are willing to become teachers.

It is my understanding that Policy 220 was implemented to "maximize the availability of educational opportunities" and "minimize unnecessary duplication". Maximizing availability to me means increasing access to affordable education which is pretty straight forward. Reducing duplication, however, is a little less clear. What is a duplicate program? Is it simply the same course title? According to my "American Heritage Dictionary" a duplicate is an identical reproduction. If that is the case, then there is not any duplication because there are significant differences in costs, availability, scheduling and course requirements.

In closing, I want to assure you that I have nothing but respect for the University of Great Falls. It is extremely valuable and needed in our community. Who knows, it ten years I might be sending my sons there, but right now the only place I can afford to continue my education is at MSU-Northern.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Alan D. Ekblad

cc: Ed Jasmin
Jeremy Fritz
Lynn Morrison-Hamilton
Margie Thompson
Richard Roehm
Deborah Wetsit
Joyce Scott

Policy 220
Stuart A. Yatsko
42 Crane Ave Box 111
Stockett, MT 59480-0111
406-736-5838
103064.35@compuserve.com

February 21, 2000

REC'D FEB 24 2000

Dear Dr. Scott and all Board of Regents members,

I am currently enrolled at MSU-Northern (Great Falls campus) in a conversion program to obtain my endorsement in (secondary) broadfield social studies.

I urge the Board of Regents to overturn the 'right of veto' given to the University of Great Falls, which limits the expansion of the education department of MSU-Northern in Great Falls. Not only is it possibly illegal, because it supports a private institution over a publicly funded one, but also it goes against the mission statement of the Board of Regents!

Board of Regents mission statement excerpts:

Section A:

1. "...a management orientation that favors policies that promote greater efficiency and effectiveness in the university system programs, activities, and operations." (UGF is not included in the mission's list of universities).
2. "... encourages a market oriented and customer-driven approach..."

Section C:

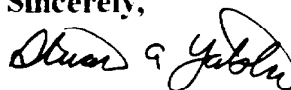
1. "... accords priority to student learning and success... and efficient and effective use of taxpayer's investment in public higher education."
2. "... provides academic opportunities to the citizens of Montana when and where they need them and at a price they can afford."

I would like to know how the 'right to veto for UGF' policy by the Board of Regents helps me, as a Montana taxpayer, to have choice, affordability and availability as I pursue my higher education?

Please revoke the 'right to veto' policy favoring the University of Great Falls. The Board of Regents policy needs to be congruent with its own mission statement and with its responsibilities to the Montana taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,



Stuart A. Yatsko

Policy 220

5503 B Acorn
Great Falls, MI 59405
Bridget_stephens@gfps.k12.mt.us
(406) 727-9970

Dr. Joyce Scott
Commissioner of Higher education
2500 Broadway
PO Box 203101
Helena, Mt 59620

Dear Dr. Scott:

I have been attending Montana State University Northern, Great Falls for two years now. Until January 17, 2000, I was under the impression that I would be able to finish my degree here, in Great Falls. To my dismay I will have only two choices: commute, 110 miles to Havre, or go to University of Great Falls. There are four classes preventing me from obtaining my credentials through Northern, in Great Falls. EDCU 334, EDUC 335, EDCU 347, and EDCU 448. Administrators at Northern have told me; "Northern can not offer the four methods of teaching classes because they are available through UGF". I have recently found that UGF is only offering EDCU 334 and EDCU 335. No matter what my decision of how to obtain the classes I will have to commute. The only question is will it be for two classes, or four.

Not only has the agreement between UGF and Northern caused a hardship of time it has also created a hardship of money. If I were to be accepted by UGF to take the two classes, not only would it cost more than Northern, they would require me to take additional courses. Just to go to their school I would have to take Religion classes and other core requirements. Taking their additional courses would add on another year of schooling. I would be paying the Private tuition, which is more than I have prepared for.

I am a substitute for the Great Falls Public School District, and my husband is a member of the Air Force. With us both having permanent and fulltime work we are place bound. The experience I will gain from substituting is far greater than any I will get out of a textbook. I believe the experience will prepare me to make the 'on the spot decisions' teachers are know for doing so well. I don't want to give up the opportunity to learn hands on.

There are thirty of us presently enrolled in the elementary education program in Great Falls. The agreement between the two universities is an inconvenience to all of us. Most of us have jobs and families; we cannot just take a year off for school. If there were a way to bring the four classes to Great Falls, we would be able to obtain our degrees with out having to leave our jobs and families to do it. I believe that is the point of a local University.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Bridget Stephens
CC Mike Rau

Methods of Teaching

Available at Havre

EDCU 334:

Teaching Integrated Language Arts

EDCU 335:

Fundamentals and Corr Strat in Reading

EDCU 374:

Speech, Hearing, and Language Development of Preschoolers.

EDCU 448:

Reading Material for Elementary Children

Available at UGF

EDCU 334:

Teaching Integrated Language Arts

EDCU 335:

Fundamentals and Corr Strat in Reading

Policy 220

March 8, 2000

Patrick Davison
Chairman-Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education
2916 Joan Lane
Billings, MT 59102

Mr. Davison,

I am a non-traditional student at MSU-N at Great Falls. I have chosen to attend this campus because of its proximity to my family's home.

My husband is currently stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base and has been for the past ten years. With only four more years until retirement, we have made this area our home. Our six children and we purchased a home in Cascade, MT several years ago. Our oldest is currently a sophomore and our Youngest will start kindergarten in the fall of 2000. This is the main reason for making MSU-N at GF my choice for continuing my education.

As a child, I always wanted to be a teacher. I had several teachers I looked up to and I wanted to be just like them. So, when I finally decided that my children were old enough to not depend on me so heavily for their daily needs, I went back to college. I chose to follow my dream and declared Elementary Education as my major.

My core requirement classes are almost complete, after which I can take the PPST and apply for the Teacher Education Program. The only problem is that as it now stands, I will not be able to finish this program here in Great Falls and remain a student at MSU-N.

If I choose to stay in Great Falls, I will have to transfer to the University of Great Falls. This will cause a financial hardship for my family as UGF costs more per credit hour than MSU-N. If I choose to remain with MSU-N, I will have to spend time and money travelling to/from

February 21, 2000

To the Board of Regents Committee;

To whom it may concern:

I am a non-traditional student who is returning to college to receive my degree in Elementary Education. I graduated from MSU COT in Great Falls with an Associate degree in the medical field. I chose to go to MSU Northern in Great Falls, because I could transfer many of my classes and I would not have to travel to Havre to the necessary take classes. If you do not go for the current proposal that is before you, I would have to discontinue my education plans because I could not afford to live in Havre or go to UGF. The tuition at MSU Northern was another big factor. I have looked into the tuition at UGF and it would cost me at least six to seven hundred dollars more to attend UGF.

At this time, I am currently substituting in my hometown of Belt and attend classes at night. This makes it very easy for me to get the real feeling of being in a classroom. I two grown children that are attending MSU institutions and not having to put out extra income for me to accomplish what I want out of life would be a blessing.

I am a taxpayer in this county and I do not feel that a private institution has the right to block my education. I sincerely hope that you would reconsider your objectives and stay with your mission statement.

Sincerely,

Bette Maki

Bette Maki

Policy 220

Mark Flaherty
516 29th Ave N.E.
Great Falls, MT. 59404

To: Board of Regents

Please walk a block in my shoes.

I am a 45 year old male that 1 year ago was downsized/rightsized from a career job. What a blow to my family and myself. After going through career counseling it was determined that I would be a good teacher and I would be happy at it. Great! The only obstacle is getting my education certificate.

So I now have a daytime job (to support my family and pay taxes). The only time I can go to school is at night or on the weekend. Why do I not go to UGF to get my teaching certificate? Let me count the ways:

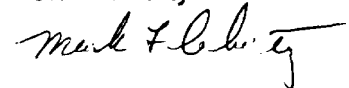
- 1) They do not offer classes at night.
- 2) They do not offer classes on the weekends.
- 3) They are 2 to 3 times the cost per credit of a state school.

It makes no sense to me that you would protect this monopoly in Great Falls that UGF now enjoys. If I understand the market place correctly we are presently having teacher and teacher substitute shortages taking place. Why then is it in the public's best interest to restrict our education options? The answer of course is that it is not in the general interest to limit competition. Pretend that the only grocery store where you live is only open on weekdays. That you and your spouse both have daytime jobs so that the only way to get shopping done is by either taking a leave from your job or quitting it entirely! This is the option you have given me by limiting my educational options in Great Falls.

In closing permit me to quote your own policy statement. "Montana's community colleges, independent colleges and units of the University System share the responsibility to **maximize the availability of educational opportunities for the state's citizens...**" Please vote for the free market system. Please vote viable options. Please allow me to get my teaching certificate without having to quit my job.

Sincerely yours

Mark Flaherty



CC. Mike Rao
Richard Fischer

Stuart A. Yatsko
42 Crane Ave Box 111
Stockett, MT 59480-0111
406-736-5838
103064.35@compuserve.com

February 21, 2000

Dear Dr. Scott and all Board of Regents members,

I am currently enrolled at MSU-Northern (Great Falls campus) in a conversion program to obtain my endorsement in (secondary) broadfield social studies.

I urge the Board of Regents to overturn the 'right of veto' given to the University of Great Falls, which limits the expansion of the education department of MSU-Northern in Great Falls. Not only is it possibly illegal, because it supports a private institution over a publicly funded one, but also it goes against the mission statement of the Board of Regents!

Board of Regents mission statement excerpts:

Section A:

1. "...a management orientation that favors policies that promote greater efficiency and effectiveness in the university system programs, activities, and operations." (UGF is not included in the mission's list of universities).

2. "... encourages a market oriented and customer-driven approach..."

Section C:

1. "... accords priority to student learning and success... and efficient and effective use of taxpayer's investment in public higher education."

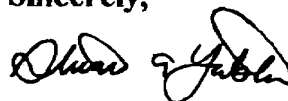
2. "... provides academic opportunities to the citizens of Montana when and where they need them and at a price they can afford."

I would like to know how the 'right to veto for UGF' policy by the Board of Regents helps me, as a Montana taxpayer, to have choice, affordability and availability as I pursue my higher education?

Please revoke the 'right to veto' policy favoring the University of Great Falls. The Board of Regents policy needs to be congruent with its own mission statement and with its responsibilities to the Montana taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,



February 28, 2000

Policy 226

Dr. Joyce Scott
Commissioner of Higher Education
P O Box 20301
Helena, MT 59620

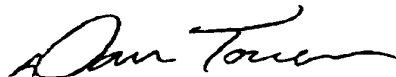
Dear Dr. Scott,

I am a non-traditional student attending Montana State University Northern in Great Falls seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. I have a family, and own a home in Great Falls. Therefore, I cannot afford to pay the tuition of a private college. Also, there is considerable more expense to travel to and from another city to achieve my educational goal.

I am concerned not only as a student enrolled in the MSU Northern program here in Great Falls, but also as a taxpayer. I feel we should be entitled to a full education in view of the fact that MSU Northern is supported by the tax dollars of all Montanans. We should not be forced into other alternatives.

I sincerely hope that you will consider my plea, not only for my family and myself, but also for the scores of students who are in the same circumstance. I thank you for your consideration in this distressing matter.

Sincerely,



Dan Toner
1300 Ave B NW
Great Falls, MT 59404

cc: Chancellor Mike Rao

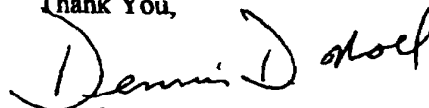
Board of Regents,

I am currently a student of Montana State University-Northern. I understand that there is a decision to be made regarding classes that may be offered to students that live in Great Falls and are enrolled in the teacher education programs. I would like to express that I feel that there is a great need for teachers in Montana as well as around the United States. By offering a choice to students in the area of education, it not only helps the student but also the community as well. Because I live in Great Falls and take classes at COT, MSU-N GF campus and MSU-N Havre campus, I spend four to five hours a day on the road to Havre in order to receive the classes needed for my degree. This is a great hardship to my family as well as the time needed for class preparation. I have heard of many other students that have commuted to Havre to finish their degree.

Many of the students working for a degree in education are nontraditional students and the demands for their time and money are high. It would be a great help to them and their families if they could finish a degree in the town that they reside. It would only make sense that one of the largest cities in Montana would offer a degree that would fulfill the needs of so many in that community.

Great Falls is in the beginning stages of the largest group of teachers to retire in the school systems history. We, as a community, need to replace this group of teachers in the most appropriate and timely manner as possible. I am sure you are aware of the extreme shortage of teachers nation wide and the shortage is coming to Great Falls and well as Montana in the near future. Please help us help ourselves and allow MSU-Northern to offer the classes needed to offset this urgent need for qualified teachers.

Thank You,


Dennis D. Noel