
MEMORANDUM

TO: Fellow regents and members of the MUS team

FROM: Kala French

SUBJECT: System-wide gpa reporting of transfer credits **ITEM 124-112-R0904**

DATE: 9/7/2004

When Logan Jones sent many of us a letter a few months ago, it was simply hard evidence of an issue each of us are aware of. What I am not sure we are aware of is how many students our current method effects. I hear the buzz increasingly, as my peers take classes at community colleges, another campus, or via distance learning, and find that the credits transfer, but not the GPA points.

When it comes to transferability of GPA points from outside the system, most understand the difficulties created by various scales and quality. However, this becomes much more difficult to understand when the transfer is within our system. Perhaps my proposal for an internal system solution will lead to a solution for this problem as well at a later date, but first, we should solve the problem at home. Some question why we are called a "system" when so much of what we do is not systematic. Others ask why, if the credits are good enough, are we sending the message that the quality is not the same?

Some have said this system is in place to give students a second chance when they get off to a rough start, and I understand that. Despite this, I do not believe we should set the policies based on the lowest common denominator. We should fight just as hard for the effect on the GPA of a student who works hard in school all year, then goes home for the summer, takes twelve credits, and gets four A's, as we do for the students who, for whatever reason, has a year that they would rather erase.

That is why I have submitted this System Issues Agenda Item on behalf of the students of the Montana University system, who deserve to have their hard work rewarded and its manifestations shown in the form of a GPA for all to see.

I ask for the formation of a work group be assembled, composed of the team members of the Montana University System, charged prepare and present to the Board a policy that allows students an option of displaying a system wide grade point, either in addition to or instead of the current display of unit grade point, on their MUS transcripts. As we receive feedback from our constituents over the workings of our universities, problems with transferability appears to be a common theme. This could be another simple solution to one of the transferability barriers, all of which I believe can be overcome if we partner together for the good of the students of the Montana University System.