



28 October 2002

Commissioner Richard Crofts
Montana University System

Dear Dr. Crofts,

On behalf of President Dennison, I would like to announce, and hope that you will pass onto the Board of Regents, that The University of Montana has decided to buy down the tuition surcharge scheduled for Spring Term 2003 from \$10.00 per Student Credit Hour to \$7.00 per SCH. This represents an additional institutional investment of \$482,691.

We were able to take this action for three reasons. First, our record high enrollment this fall provided us the financial resources we needed to realize the budget target we established for our contingency reserve. Second, we listened closely to what our students were saying about affordability and access, and worked closely with them to develop an achievable compromise to reduce the surcharge. Lastly, through our Enhanced Business Practices project and the agreement we recently signed with Coca-Cola, we were able to look beyond state appropriation and increased tuition for a revenue solution to the recent legislative budget rescission. And while we wanted to buy down the surcharge even further, we felt that the financial reallocations this would require would endanger the quality academic programs we have worked so hard to maintain and protect.

Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Durringer
Vice President for Administration and Finance