



**MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  
**OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

2500 BROADWAY ◊ PO BOX 203101 ◊ HELENA, MONTANA 59620-3101 ◊ (406)444-6570 ◊ FAX (406)444-1469

**TO:** Montana Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Roger Barber, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs,  
**RE:** The Annual Transfer Student Survey  
**DATE:** March 17 – 18, 2005

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The annual survey of transfer students is attached to this memorandum. The information in the survey is self-explanatory, but the following notes may help as you read through the document:

- for the first time, the campuses used a common set of questions in this year's survey, so the information was similar for all of the institutions;
- since some of the campuses have been administering their own transfer student surveys for some time, every institution was also encouraged to supplement the common question set if they wanted to continue collecting their own information. Just the common questions are included in this report, however.
- on most of the campuses, 70 – 80% of the students who responded to the survey said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the transfer process. When those same students were asked why, and given possible choices for that satisfaction, the percentages dropped, however.
- between 15 – 25% of the students who responded to the survey were dissatisfied with the way their previous coursework was applied to the degree requirements at their new institution; and their most frequently cited reason for that dissatisfaction was a belief that they were required to repeat courses that they had already taken somewhere else.
- the response rate on the survey is not remarkable, on most campuses.

The transfer audit, and the recommendations of the data work group that has been assembled in response to that audit, will change the kind of information collected on transfer students in the future. The campuses will almost certainly continue to administer this survey, however, primarily because it helps them to identify individual problems and work with individual students to resolve most of those problems.