## January 23rd email

## Fwd: UM campus policy is in violation of Board of Regents transfer policy 301.5.5 – Common Course Numbering

Dear Provost Edmond,

It has recently come to my attention that UM campus policy is in violation of Board of Regents transfer policy 301.5.5 – Common Course Numbering. The specific campus policies that are at issue are 1) Writing Course Requirement Regarding Transfer Students and 2) Cross-Listing of Courses. I write to you today to request that you amend these policies and campus practices to bring them into compliance with Board policy. I have described the specific issues and how I would like to see them addressed below.

1. Writing Course Requirement Regarding Transfer Students

I am aware that UM has campus specific writing course requirements to which all students must comply and I understand that in certain cases additional evaluation of transfer student coursework may be necessary to determine if another campus’ coursework meets the requirements for an intermediate writing course. While this is a permissible policy for courses transferred from institutions outside of the Montana University System or courses not offered on the UM campus, it is strictly in violation of policy when it is required for a commonly numbered course transferred from another Montana University System campus offered at UM. Board of Regents Policy 301.5.5 A. 2. states that: “Courses determined to be equivalent shall be accepted as if the courses had been taken at the receiving campus.” This includes meeting all campus specific designations such as an intermediate writing course.

For example: If a student from a Montana University System campus has successfully completed BMGT 205 and transfers to UM, the course must be accepted as BMGT 205 at UM which according to the 2015-2016 approved intermediate writing catalog fulfills the requirements for intermediate writing. Thus, the student cannot be required to submit additional documentation to demonstrate their course met this requirement.

1. Cross-Listing of Courses

To assist UM with the transition to Common Course Numbering many years ago, the Commissioner’s Office granted UM approval to continue cross-listing courses until they could be completely phased out. At this time, it is my belief that cross-listing is not in the best interest of the students or campuses of the Montana University System. For this reason, I am requiring that all cross-listing, in all departments and colleges, at UM be phased out by Fall 2017.

I greatly appreciate your attention to these matters. I know we all share the common goal of helping Montana’s students to succeed. Your swift action to bring UM into compliance with Board of Regents policy in these areas will ensure we continue to move in the right direction towards this goal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Elizabeth Ternes or to me.  Thank you.

Sincerely,

John

John E. Cech, Ph.D.

Deputy Commissioner – Academic & Student Affairs

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