

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**ASSOCIATED FACULTY OF MONTANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Non Tenure Track Faculty**

**AND THE**

**MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2027**

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## ARTICLE 1: PREAMBLE

This agreement covering certain non-tenure-track faculty positions is entered into by the Commissioner of Higher Education as agent for the Board of Regents of Higher Education on behalf of Montana State University hereinafter referred to as “Commissioner” or “Employer” and the Associated Faculty of Montana State University (AFMSU) [Local 7734] hereinafter referred to as the “Association” or “AFMSU”. Its goals are the furtherance of quality education, research, creative activity and service. This agreement is in accordance with the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act (MCA Title 39). The purpose of this agreement includes but is not limited to establishing the terms and conditions of employment in regard to working conditions, compensation, benefits and the establishment of an equitable procedure for the resolution of grievances.

## ARTICLE 2: CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

### 2.01 ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This agreement constitutes the entire negotiated agreement between the Parties and supersedes any previous regulations, faculty contracts, previous practices, or policies which are in conflict with the expressed terms of this agreement. This agreement shall constitute the master agreement for all faculty members in the bargaining unit.

### 2.02 TERM OF AGREEMENT

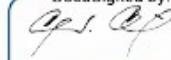
This agreement is effective upon ratification by the Board of Regents and shall remain in full force and effect through the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2027.

Negotiations on a subsequent agreement shall commence on a mutually-agreeable date.

This Agreement is entered into on 12 day of Dec, 2025

For the Employer

DocuSigned by:



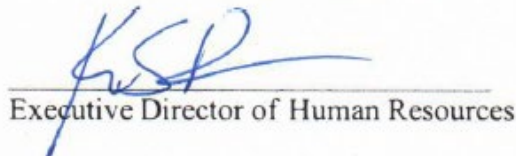
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner of High Education

For the AFMSU



\_\_\_\_\_  
President, AFMSU (NTT)



\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director of Human Resources

### **2.03 DISTRIBUTION OF CONTRACT**

Upon final ratification and approval of this agreement a copy will be posted on the Board of Regents website. The AFMSU will prepare and distribute electronic copies and/or hard copies of the agreement to members of the bargaining unit.

### **2.04 PRINTING COSTS**

Costs for printing up to 50 copies of this agreement and all attachments herein shall be shared equally by the parties.

### **2.05 WAIVER CLAUSE**

Regardless of any procedure set forth in this agreement, the signatory parties may mutually agree upon any method for achieving goals; or resolving any question, controversy, claim or matter of difference related to this agreement or the performance or breach of any part thereof. No action taken under the provisions of this section shall constitute a past practice for future negotiations.

### **2.06 SEVERABILITY**

It is understood and agreed by the parties to this Agreement that any provision inconsistent with or contrary to law shall be considered as deleted from the agreement without harm to the remaining provisions of the agreement. If any section of this Agreement or any addendum to it is held invalid by operation of law or by any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or if compliance with or enforcement of any section is restrained by such tribunal, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby, and the parties shall enter into immediate negotiations for the purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory replacement for such section.

### **2.07 AMENDMENT**

If a mutually acceptable amendment to this agreement is negotiated by the parties, it shall be written and submitted for ratification by the Board of Regents and the Association. When it is ratified by both the BOR and the members of the Association, it shall become a part of the agreement.

Changes or additions to this agreement during its term may be negotiated only upon mutual agreement of the parties. Any agreed-to changes or additions shall be made effective upon any date agreed upon by both parties and shall expire upon the expiration of this agreement. For changes or additions to be effective, they must be set down in writing and approved and signed by the union President and the Commissioner.

### **2.08 EFFECT BY PASSAGE OF LAW**

Any provision of this agreement that is contrary to law, but becomes legal during the life of this agreement, shall take immediate effect upon the enactment of such legislation.

## **2.09 NEGOTIATIONS AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

By February 1 (four months prior to the expiration of the Agreement), the parties will exchange lists of new items and of those existing sections they intend to modify, amend, delete, or otherwise change. The scope of bargaining during the initial bargaining session shall be limited to provisions included on the exchange of lists. However, both parties may expand their lists or raise new issues through two subsequent meetings (up to and including the third bargaining session). Nothing in this provision prevents either party from introducing new provisions or proposals after the third bargaining session for reasons that are permissible and in good faith under collective bargaining laws; however, neither party is obligated to agree with a particular proposal.

## **2.10 REFERENCES**

Any references to policies in this agreement shall be a reference to the policy as of the date of ratification of this agreement.

## **2.11 BUDGET RESCISSIONS**

If the University has its appropriation reduced by the legislature or the Governor during the term of this agreement, those portions of this agreement that are contingent upon the availability of resources may be opened for negotiations by mutual agreement of the parties.

## **2.12 NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Parties shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, sex, physical or mental disability, age, national origin, political belief, or sexual orientation.

The exclusive remedy for adjudicating claims of discrimination that are not resolved by the University's non-discrimination procedures referenced below, and that are subject to the Montana Human Rights Act shall be the statutory complaint procedures provided for in Title 49, MCA. For all other claims of alleged discrimination, the exclusive remedy for adjudicating disputes shall be the grievance and arbitration provisions of this collective bargaining agreement.

The Parties shall refrain from unfair labor practices, including but not limited to anti-union animus or retaliation for free exercise of rights provided by this collective bargaining agreement. The exclusive remedy for adjudicating disputes over alleged unfair labor practices or discrimination on the basis of protected union activity shall be the statutory complaint procedure of the Board of Personnel Appeals as provided for in Title 39, MCA.

### **2.12.01 UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

The University provides resources for all employees. Faculty who feel that they may have been subjected to harassment, discrimination, or may be experiencing work place issues should utilize these resources:

Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence,

Stalking and Retaliation - <https://www.montana.edu/civilrights/policies/>

Montana State University Compliance Hotline -  
<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/38620/index.html>

### **2.13 NO STRIKE - NO LOCKOUT**

The parties agree that bargaining unit members shall not engage in any strike, work stoppage, or slowdown; and that the Administration shall not lockout bargaining unit members during the term of this agreement.

### **2.14 LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Parties value a cooperative working relationship as effective in promoting excellence in education. In the interest of cooperation and good communication, the Parties agree to establish a labor-management committee consisting of six members / representatives. The Association shall appoint three representatives of the Association. The Administration shall appoint three representatives of the Administration. The committee is encouraged to seek labor-management committee training and develop a committee charter with a structure for meeting agendas, procedures, etc.

## **ARTICLE 3: UNION RIGHTS**

### **3.01 RECOGNITION**

The Board of Regents recognizes the AFMSU as the exclusive bargaining representative for all persons in the bargaining unit of non-tenure-track faculty positions as certified by the Board of Personnel Appeals in Unit Determination No.16-2008 on April 23, 2009.

The parties recognize that any disagreement over positions to be included in, or excluded from, the bargaining unit may be resolved through negotiation or through the unit clarification process of the Montana Board of Personnel Appeals.

### **3.02 DUTY OF FAIR REPRESENTATION**

AFMSU, as exclusive representative of all employees described in Section 3.01 will represent all such persons fairly whether members or not. No employee shall be required to join AFMSU, but membership in AFMSU shall be made available to all who apply, consistent with AFMSU constitution, bylaws, and policies.

### **3.03 PROFESSIONAL DUES /PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS**

The University shall deduct, in equal installments for the duration of the contract, as elected by the employee such monies for annual unified membership dues (as certified by the secretary of the exclusive representative), and shall deliver the dues to the treasurer of the exclusive representative by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Deductions for new employees, who

submit their membership forms to the University, shall be prorated in equal payments.

No later than September 1 annually, AFMSU will notify the University in writing, of all employees authorizing the University to deduct annual membership dues and the amount of the dues to be deducted. The University shall deduct and transmit the dues (identifying the individual by name and dues deduction amount) to MFPE Treasurer or its designee. Transmittal must occur on or before the last day of each month.

The Union agrees to defend and hold the University harmless from any claim or suit filed by an employee arising from the University's compliance with this provision.

### **3.04 INFORMATION AND DATA**

The Parties shall comply with their statutory duty to furnish information necessary for collective bargaining, including data and financial information relevant to negotiating or enforcing the collective bargaining agreement. Voluminous information shall be made available for inspection where it is normally kept or, upon request, shall be provided to the other party at cost.

By October 1, the Employer will provide the AFMSU a list of non-tenure-track faculty members in the collective bargaining unit. The parties understand that the data has not been checked for accuracy and may not be the final roster of non-tenure-track faculty members in the unit. The report will typically identify faculty members by name, rank, department, and salary. Upon request, the Administration shall provide supplemental information regarding tenure status (e.g., tenured or tenure-track) and FTE (full-time-equivalent) status.

### **3.05 MEETING ROOMS AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES**

AFMSU may meet in University facilities provided that it follows the same procedures for scheduling meetings and reserving facilities as other campus organizations.

The Employer's information technology systems (including telephones, computers, email, and Internet) are the property of the Employer and their use is subject to Board of Regents Information Technology Policy Section 1300 (<http://mus.edu/borpol/bor1300/bor1300.asp>) and the University information technology policies (<http://www2.montana.edu/policy/>).

The Employer agrees to allow employees reasonable use of telephones, email, and campus mail and bulletin boards for union-related communications, and the Union agrees that misuse of the Employer's computing or information resources may result in disciplinary action appropriate to the misuse and subject to just cause.

### **3.06 ADDRESSING THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

Officers of the AFMSU shall have the right to address the Board on relevant topics. The AFMSU shall provide advance notice of the topic to the University Administration and to the Commissioner.

Officers of the AFMSU who exercise this right are responsible for alternative arrangements

to provide class coverage during the faculty member's attendance at the Board of Regents meeting.

Full and timely access to the Board of Regents agenda and approved minutes exists at <http://mus.edu/board/default.asp>.

### **3.07 RELEASE TIME**

Upon approval by the University administration, the AFMSU President of the NTT faculty bargaining unit may request release from teaching one three credit course per semester with no reduction in pay to work on union matters. The University administration will grant this reassignment if the course release will not adversely affect the department and students. If the AFMSU President is unable to take release time, another officer may request release time in lieu of the AFMSU President.

The AFMSU President will submit to the Provost the request for the following academic year by May 15th of each year. The AFMSU and University administration will provide funds necessary to hire temporary faculty to teach the reassigned courses. The funding will be based upon the cost of replacement and will be one-half from AFMSU and one-half from the Administration.

## **ARTICLE 4: MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

The Association recognizes the prerogatives of the Employer to operate and manage its affairs in such areas as, but not limited to:

- (A) direct employees;
- (B) hire, promote, transfer, assign, and retain employees;
- (C) relieve employees from duties because of lack of work or funds or under conditions where continuation of such work be inefficient and nonproductive;
- (D) maintain the efficiency of government operations;
- (E) determine the methods, means, job classifications, and personnel by which government operations are to be conducted;
- (F) take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the missions of the agency in situations of emergency;
- (G) establish the methods and processes by which work is performed.

### **4.01 PERFORMANCE BY DESIGNEE**

Any responsibility assigned to a specific representative of the Employer may be performed by a designee of such representative.

## **ARTICLE 5: SHARED GOVERNANCE**

The Parties recognize the authority of the Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for

members of the bargaining unit on matters of wages, hours, fringe benefits, and other conditions of employment (39-31-305, MCA). The Parties also recognize the prerogative of the Employer to establish and/or support faculty participation in shared governance efforts including, but not limited to, the organization of the Faculty Senate. Matters that shall be reviewed and recommended by the Senate, in accordance with regulations of the Board, shall include:

- (A) specific curricular changes submitted by the faculties of the various departments, units, and schools through the appropriate University committee;
- (B) general requirements for various degrees, including honorary degrees, and nomination of candidates for graduation;
- (C) general requirements for admission and retention of students;
- (D) development, curtailment, discontinuance, or reorganization of academic programs;
- (E) issues that pertain to the academic affairs of the University;
- (F) establishment of committees and other bodies deemed necessary to carry out the responsibilities under this provision.

## **ARTICLE 6: FACULTY RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS**

### **6.01 INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS**

Any individual employed in a position within the bargaining unit, or reappointed to a position within the bargaining unit, shall be given an individual contract. The individual contract shall be subject to the terms of this Agreement. In the event of conflict between the terms of an individual employment contract and the terms of this Agreement, the latter shall be controlling.

### **6.02 SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

The Employer shall provide a place of employment which does not endanger the health or safety of any member of the faculty. Faculty members shall notify the Employer of any safety or health concerns and the Employer shall institute appropriate remedial action.

### **6.03 WORKSPACE & MATERIALS**

The Employer shall provide all non-tenure-track faculty members with enclosed lockable workspace (either shared or private). All non-tenure-track faculty members shall have reasonable access to a desk, desk chair, telephone, file cabinet, bookcase, and computer with internet access. In cases of shared workspace, each faculty member will be provided with a lockable file cabinet. Faculty may retain personally owned items or property in their offices at their own risk of loss. The Employer shall provide access to laboratory facilities for faculty members who are required by the University to conduct laboratory-based research.

#### **6.04 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

Faculty will be provided with access to administrative support services in the performance of their responsibilities.

#### **6.05 FAMILY /CARE ROOM**

In accordance with 39-2-215-217, MCA, the University supports and encourages the practice of breastfeeding, accommodates lactation needs of its employees and students, and provides facilities for lactation.

The University will provide Family Care Rooms equipped for lactation on campus. The rooms will be equipped with a lockable door, lighting, electricity, a small refrigerator for the storage of breast milk, and convenient access to a sink with running water. The rooms will remain open for use during the building's operating hours.

The University will designate a 45-minute parking space adjacent to Hamilton Hall, specifically for lactating individuals to use for the purpose of lactating.

If necessary, faculty will have access to other space suitable for breastfeeding / lactating. The faculty member will inform the department head or supervisor in consultation with Human Resources, who shall then be responsible for identifying space suitable for such use in accordance with University policy and state law.

University Human Resources and the Campus Civil Rights Office shall be considered as a resource for the supervisor in identifying such suitable alternative space.

#### **6.06 PERSONNEL FILES**

Each faculty member shall have one personnel file which shall reside in the office of Human Resources, with the exception that formal reviews (annual, retention, promotion and tenure, post-tenure) shall reside in files kept in the departments. Except for formal reviews that are kept in department files, any information concerning a faculty member that exists outside of the file in the office of Human Resources shall not be construed to belong in the official personnel file of a faculty member. No anonymous material shall be placed in a personnel file. Complaints against the faculty member shall not be placed in the file until an investigation has been completed and the faculty member has been made aware of the investigation, its outcome. Should the complaint be found to have merit, the faculty member may respond in writing to the complaint and the response will be placed in the file. Inclusion of a complaint in the file is subject to the grievance and arbitration provision in this agreement.

Each faculty member's personnel file shall be open to him/her, except for confidential correspondence connected with initial employment, and peer reviews obtained during formal reviews. The opportunity to rebut, comment on, and/or clarify any unfavorable item in the file shall be guaranteed to the faculty member. Such rebuttal, commentary, and/or clarification shall be attached to the relevant item in the file. Copies of any item in his/her personnel file shall be provided to the faculty member upon request at his/her expense.

#### **6.07 TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Expenses incurred by faculty for University travel, meals, lodging, and miscellaneous items

shall be reimbursed in accordance with Title 2, MCA.

## **6.08 EMPLOYEE INDEMNITY**

Employees covered by this agreement are entitled to indemnification in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-9-305, MCA, for their actions taken within the course and scope of their employment.

## **ARTICLE 7: WORKLOAD**

### **7.01 DEFINITION**

The primary responsibility of NTT faculty is to support the teaching needs and teaching mission of the institution. Faculty workload is described in terms of workload units. Full-time work will consist of 15 workload units per semester.

Normally, workload units given for a teaching assignment will be equivalent to the credit assigned to the course (e.g., a three credit course would count as three workload units). Included in the workload associated with each course assignment are the effort and time associated with pedagogical preparation, classroom presentation, assessment of student work, office hours, and informal interaction with students

In determining workload assignments, credit may be allocated for duties beyond or in lieu of normal classroom teaching—such as formal academic advising, large classroom enrollment, writing-intensive courses, committee service, administrative duties, and lab supervision. For contractual non-instructional assignments 1 workload unit will represent, on average, 45 hours over the course of the contract.

The department head, with approval of the Dean, may adjust workload units for a course based on criteria established by the College (e.g., workload associated with student enrollment, course format and availability of course support). Department Heads and/or Deans will make every effort to seek input from faculty when adjusting workload units.

In March or April of every academic year, Deans, Directors, or Department Heads shall arrange a meeting to discuss the past year's workload. NTT faculty will be invited and may attend this meeting to identify changes in workload demand.

### **7.02 ASSIGNING WORKLOAD**

The assignment of instructional or non-instructional workload will be based on the teaching, service, operational, or administrative needs of the department or college and shall be at the discretion of the department head with the Dean's approval.

### **7.03 WORKLOAD APPEAL**

Workload assignments may be appealed, first to the department head, and then to the Dean.

If no resolution is achieved, the appeal will go to a workload appeals committee composed of two non-tenure-track faculty, two academic administrators, and one at-large member. The AFMSU shall appoint the NTT faculty members and the Administration shall appoint the administrators. The foregoing four members shall unanimously select a tenured faculty member to serve as the at-large member. If the committee members cannot come to agreement regarding the at-large member of the committee, the Provost shall appoint the at-large member.

Workloads may be appealed only if the work load units assigned in a contract are inconsistent with work load units assigned for similar work under similar conditions in other contracts, or when the administration substantively changes the terms and conditions of work as laid out in the faculty member's contract during the term of the contract. Otherwise, if a faculty member signs a contract, it is expected that they are agreeing to the conditions established within that contract.

The procedural rules of the committee shall be as follows:

The dean, or department head, and faculty member shall make formal proposals concerning the assignment of workload to the committee. The committee will be charged with resolving the differences. Such a resolution may include selecting one of the formal proposals or a compromise assignment. In making its decision, the committee will attempt to balance the following standards:

- (A) Demonstrated need for the assignment, according to departmental, college/school, or University demands, or University-wide productivity guidelines.
- (B) Consistency in the assignment of workload units for similar work under similar conditions.
- (C) Conformity of the assignment with provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.

The committee shall submit its recommendation to the Provost for a decision. The Provost's decision shall focus solely on the above listed standards. The Provost's decision can be grieved pursuant to the grievance and arbitration provision of the collective bargaining agreement only if it is in conflict with a four-to-one or five-to-zero vote of the committee in favor of the faculty member.

## **ARTICLE 8: APPOINTMENTS, EVALUATION & ADVANCEMENT**

### **8.01 APPOINTMENT OF NTT BARGAINING UNIT FACULTY**

Individuals are appointed to NTT bargaining unit faculty positions at a specific title that is commensurate with their qualifications, experience, and responsibilities (See section 8.05). An NTT faculty member's Letter of Appointment and this Collective Bargaining Agreement describe the University's contractual relation to the individual.

The University may offer NTT faculty contracts to teach courses in the summer. If the class is cancelled for insufficient enrollment, in the case where foreseeable circumstances would make the instructor unavailable or a lack of instructor availability, these contracts will be

considered null and void. Summer contracts are a separate term of employment and shall not be used to calculate bargaining unit eligibility.

## **8.02 NTT HIRING SEARCHES**

Montana State University is committed, both in principle and by State and Federal regulations, to open and inclusive hiring practices. To facilitate NTT faculty appointments, hiring authorities are generally required to select NTT faculty appointees from a hiring pool. Applications are received and reviewed at the department level. Any exception to hiring from a pool requires approval from the Provost.

To encourage participation, all hiring pools are publicly advertised for each pool cycle. Hiring pools are maintained for two-year cycles; all applications meeting minimum qualification received at any point in that cycle will be retained for the remainder of the current cycle. At the end of the cycle, all current applications will be purged.

Current NTT faculty members must maintain an application in the appropriate pool(s) in order to be considered for appointment. While there is no automatic reappointment of NTT faculty on semester or AY appointments, program continuity and faculty experience at MSU are among the considerations that hiring authorities take into account when making hiring decisions.

Current NTT faculty may make their intentions known during their annual review as to whether they wish to be considered for ongoing employment in the upcoming year, but will still be expected to maintain an application in the current hiring pool cycle and to resubmit to the pool after the two-year period has expired.

## **8.03 DURATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

Unless otherwise specified the duration of a Letter of Appointment is one semester. When departmental needs dictate, a NTT faculty member may be awarded an academic or fiscal year contract at the discretion of a Department Head with the approval of the Dean.

Consistent with BOR Policy 702.1, NTT faculty have no expectation of reappointment or renewal of the appointment from semester to semester or year to year. NTT contracts are term contracts that automatically expire (without notice) at the end of the contract term unless renewed prior to expiration. However, the administration will make every reasonable effort to inform NTT bargaining unit faculty as early as possible and (when possible) at least twenty (20) days before start of classes if they are to be reappointed for the next semester.

## **8.04 MULTIPLE YEAR CONTRACTS**

NTT faculty in positions that have been identified through appropriate campus procedures may receive multiple year contracts at the discretion of the department and with the approval of the dean and provost.

A NTT faculty member on a multi-year contract may be discharged for cause or lack of enrollment or funding within the contract term. All multi-year contracts shall be subject to

the requirements of BOR policy [711.3](#) as of the date of this agreement. All NTT faculty on multi-year contracts will be reported to AFMSU with name, title, and department included.

## **8.05 NTT FACULTY TITLES**

The following principles will serve as guidelines for the departments and colleges in establishing discipline-specific criteria for the appointment and advancement of NTT faculty:

The following are the designated titles of the NTT Bargaining Unit Faculty:

### **8.05.01 NTT FACULTY WITH RELEVANT TERMINAL DEGREE**

- (A) Assistant Teaching/Clinical Professor
- (B) Associate Teaching/Clinical Professor
- (C) Teaching/Clinical Professor

### **8.05.02 ALL OTHER NTT FACULTY**

- (A) Instructor/Clinical Instructor
- (B) Lecturer/Clinical Lecturer
- (C) Senior Lecturer /Senior Clinical Lecturer

## **8.06 APPOINTMENT AND ADVANCEMENT**

A NTT faculty member may be appointed initially at any title, appropriate to his/her qualifications, experience and responsibilities as determined by the relevant department(s).

Each NTT faculty member will be assigned a home department. The home department will make the decision regarding advancement using the criteria and standards of the department. However, service in other departments will be credited to the candidate's total FTE in regard to eligibility for advancement.

### **8.06.01 NTT FACULTY WITH A RELEVANT TERMINAL DEGREE**

NTT faculty with relevant terminal degrees (relevancy is determined by the heads of their home departments) may be appointed or advance to the following titles:

- Assistant Teaching/Clinical Professor
- Associate Teaching/Clinical Professor
- Teaching/Clinical Professor

#### **ASSISTANT TEACHING/CLINICAL PROFESSOR**

For NTT faculty members to be considered for appointment to the title of Assistant Teaching/Clinical Professor they must:

- (A) have a relevant terminal degree.
- (B) demonstrate promise of effectiveness in all areas of their assignment .

### **ASSOCIATE TEACHING/CLINICAL PROFESSOR**

For NTT faculty members to be considered for appointment or advancement to the title of Associate Teaching/Clinical Professor they must:

- (A) have a relevant terminal degree.
- (B) demonstrate sustained effectiveness in all areas of their assignments as specifically defined by Letters of Appointment in the 150 WLU period.
- (C) demonstrate effectiveness in teaching (see section 8.07.01) .
- (D) In addition, for Assistant Teaching/Clinical Professors to be considered as candidates for advancement, they must have completed a minimum of 150 workload units of contracted work for the university, as Assistant Teaching/Clinical Professors.

### **TEACHING/CLINICAL PROFESSOR**

For NTT faculty members to be considered for appointment or advancement to the title of Teaching/Clinical Professor they must:

- (A) have a relevant terminal degree.
- (B) demonstrate sustained effectiveness in all areas of their assignments as specifically defined by Letters of Appointment in the 150 WLU period.
- (C) demonstrate excellence in teaching (see section 8.07.01).
- (D) In addition, for Associate Teaching/Clinical Professors to be considered as candidates for advancement, they must have completed a minimum of 150 workload units of contracted work for the university, as Associate Teaching/Clinical Professors.

### **8.06.02 ALL OTHER NTT FACULTY**

For NTT faculty not covered in 8.06.01 the following titles are available for appointment and advancement:

- Instructor/Clinical Instructor
- Lecturer/Clinical Lecturer
- Senior Lecturer/Senior Clinical Lecturer

### **INSTRUCTOR/CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR**

For NTT faculty members to be considered for appointment to the title of Instructor/Clinical Instructor they must:

- (A) meet the educational requirements of the department, which normally includes a Master's degree in an appropriate field.
- (B) demonstrate promise of effectiveness in all areas of their assignment.

### **LECTURER/CLINICAL LECTURER**

For NTT faculty members to be considered for appointment or advancement to the title of Lecturer/Clinical Lecturer they must:

- (A) meet the educational requirements of the department, which normally includes a Master's degree in an appropriate field.
- (B) demonstrate sustained effectiveness in all areas of their assignment and accomplishment in teaching, as defined in the letters of appointment during the 150 WLU period.
- (C) demonstrate effectiveness in teaching (see section 8.07.01).
- (D) In addition, for Instructor/Clinical Instructors to be considered as candidates for advancement, they must have completed a minimum of 150 workload units of contracted work for the university, as Instructors/Clinical Instructors.

#### **SENIOR LECTURER/ SENIOR CLINICAL LECTURER**

For NTT faculty members to be considered for appointment or advancement to the title of Senior Lecturer/Senior Clinical Lecturer they must:

- (A) meet the educational requirements of the department, which normally includes a Master's degree in an appropriate field.
- (B) demonstrate sustained effectiveness in all areas of the letters of appointment during the 150 WLU period.
- (C) demonstrate excellence in teaching (see section 8.07.01).
- (D) In addition, for Lecturers/Clinical Lecturers to be considered as candidates for advancement, they must have completed a minimum of 150 workload units of contracted work for the university, as Lecturers/Clinical Lecturers.

#### **8.07 ADVANCEMENT PROCESS**

NTT faculty members who meet all the requirements for consideration (8.06.01-8.06.02) may petition the Department Head or equivalent of their home department for title advancement.

The petition shall include:

- Cover Sheet
- Table of Contents
- NTT Teaching Faculty Title Advancement Application form
- Copies of Applicable Letters of Appointment
- Curriculum Vitae
- Narrative Indicating Effectiveness
- Supporting Materials, annual reviews and teaching evaluations.
- Annual reviews
- Student teaching evaluations.
- A Copy of the Departmental Guidelines for Title Advancement Evaluation (only necessary when non-departmental NTT faculty serve on the Departmental Review Committee)

### **8.07.01 CRITERIA & STANDARDS:**

Faculty members may petition for title advancement no later than the first Monday of the spring semester. To be considered for advancement, a faculty member should petition the home department administrator, providing information that establishes effectiveness as it pertains to the applicant's letters of appointment covering the period of accumulation of the 150 work load units. The rationale for advancement may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- A narrative (see 8.07)
- The command of subject matter
- The display of continuous growth in the subject field and/or teaching expertise
- The ability to create and maintain instructional environments that promote student learning as demonstrated by, course syllabi associated learning outcomes, and the products that demonstrate the learning outcomes.
- The display of pedagogical innovation
- The contribution to professional societies and organizations
- Community service reflective of the mission of the university
- The demonstration of currency in the taught discipline(s)
- Any work identified in the Letters of Appointment may be included in the evaluation

In addition to the narrative, applicants may present annual reviews completed during the accumulation of the 150 WLUs that show consistent effectiveness and excellence, reviews by peers and colleagues, and student evaluations. In the case where faculty report to more than one department, faculty may include evaluations and evidence from non-home department work as it pertains to teaching practices.

“Criteria” are the variables examined in an evaluation as established above.

“Standards” are the levels or degrees of performance which measure the success in meeting the accomplishing criteria.

“Effectiveness” means meeting or exceeding the standards of the department and college, discipline or profession as appropriate for the individual's assignment.

“Excel/Excellence” means achieving substantial recognition from students, clients, colleagues and/or peers in the profession, appropriate to the activity.

If the applicant finds departmental standards to be onerous, the applicant may petition the college Dean to mediate expectations with the department head.

### **8.07.02 APPLICATION REVIEW:**

NTT faculty seeking advancement will submit their application for advancement to their department head or appropriate equivalent for consideration by the first Monday in the Spring Semester.

A departmental review committee will be established to consider the application.

### **8.07.03 APPLICATION PROCESS:**

The Departmental Review Committee shall consist of three NTT members from the faculty member's home department with a title above or equal to the sought title. The department head will select the committee. If there is an insufficient number of NTT faculty in the home department the department head may choose to fill those positions in one of three ways:

- TT faculty member(s) from the home department
- NTT faculty member(s) from within the applicant's college
- NTT faculty member(s) from other colleges within the university

The Departmental Review Committee will review the applicant's petition based on the criteria established in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The committee will make a recommendation to the department head or equivalent by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The recommendation will:

- Indicate if the candidate is or is not recommended for title advancement
- Provide a rationale for recommendation as determined by the interpretation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement guidelines and departmental criteria.

Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Departmental Review Committee, the department head will conduct an independent review of the candidate's application and make a written recommendation to the Dean. The Dean may grant advancement in title if the applicant meets the criteria for the title described above in section 8.06. These decisions will be made no later than April 30<sup>th</sup> and the Dean will notify the applicant of their decision within ten working days. The applicant will be notified in writing of the outcome at each stage of the review.

### **8.07.04 DENIAL:**

If the request for advancement in title is denied, the applicant shall be advised of the reason for denial and may appeal the denial to the Provost. The Provost will consider the appeal and will make a decision based on the applicant's fulfillment of duties as described in the letters of appointment over the period of accruing 150 WLUs and performance in accordance of the standards and criteria (section 8.07.01). This decision is final, and is not grievable.

NTT faculty who apply for advancement at any level, but are not approved, may still be hired at their existing title.

If the title advancement is denied, the faculty member may file a new petition in the following years. The application process outline in 8.07.01 should be followed.

## **8.08 NTT FACULTY ELIGIBILITY FOR TT FACULTY POSITIONS**

NTT faculty are eligible to apply for tenurable positions.

## **8.09 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Each department will develop specific guidelines for the evaluation of performance of NTT faculty. Departmental evaluation guidelines should reflect the mission and needs of the department, college, and University, cover the primary areas of the NTT appointment and must be approved by the Dean and Provost. Reviews of NTT faculty members will be based solely on their fulfillment of their letters of appointment.

Each home department shall review annually the performance of all NTT faculty who have contracted for at least 7.5 workload units (0.5 FTE) in any semester in the calendar year for which they are being reviewed and who are employed during the time of the annual review, or who are employed on a multi-year contract. All NTT faculty who are reviewed will receive a written evaluation.

## **ARTICLE 9: COMPENSATION**

### **9.01 ANNUAL INCREASES**

#### Fiscal Year 2026

The base salary shall increase by an annualized amount of \$1,560 (1.0 FTE faculty on an academic year contract) or by 2.5%, whichever is greater, effective the first day of the first complete pay period that includes July 1, 2025. The \$1,560 if applicable, shall be prorated for faculty who are in positions of less than 1.0 FTE. New hires will not be eligible for this normal increase in the year becomes effective.

#### Fiscal Year 2027

The base salary shall increase by an annualized amount of \$1,560 (1.0 FTE faculty on an academic year contract) or by 2.5%, whichever is greater, effective the first day of the first complete pay period that includes July 1, 2026. The \$1,560 if applicable, shall be prorated for faculty who are in positions of less than 1.0 FTE. New hires will not be eligible for this normal increase in the year becomes effective.

If the MUS enters into an agreement with any other bargaining unit for normal salary increases greater than the above proposal or its equivalent, the MUS agrees to reopen the normal salary increase of this agreement.

### **9.02 OTHER COMPENSATION PROVISIONS**

All NTT bargaining unit faculty will be hired at no less than the following full-time equivalent salary floors (by title) effective Fall, 2025:

NTT faculty with relevant terminal degree (see Article 8)

1. Assistant Teaching/Clinical Professor     \$42,525 (\$1,417.50 per WLU)

- 2. Associate Teaching/Clinical Professor \$44,550 (\$1,485.00 per WLU)
  - 3. Teaching/Clinical Professor \$46,575 (\$1,552.50 per WLU)
- All other NTT faculty
- 1. Instructor/Clinical Instructor \$40,500 (\$1,350.00 per WLU)
  - 2. Lecturer/Clinical Lecturer \$42,525 (\$1,417.50 per WLU)
  - 3. Senior Lecturer/Senior Clinical Lecturer \$44,550 (\$1,485.00 per WLU)

No NTT faculty will return with less than their previous year’s salary, pro-rated by FTE. A NTT faculty member will not be paid less in future contracts for the same work performed in the same department, so long as there is not a lapse of greater than 12 consecutive months in department assigned work.

**9.03 RAISES ASSOCIATED WITH TITLE ADVANCEMENT**

Upon successful completion of the title promotion process (per section 8.07) faculty will receive an increase in base pay as follows:

- 1. Assistant Teaching/Clinical Professor/Instructor:
- 2. Associate Teaching/Clinical Professor/Lecturer: 3% added to base pay upon advancement
- 3. Teaching/Clinical Professor/Senior Lecturer: 5% added to base pay upon advancement

**9.03.01 ELIGIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT AWARDS**

NTT bargaining unit faculty are eligible to apply for centrally-funded faculty development awards offered through the Provost’s office.

**9.04 MERIT**

Merit is intended to reward excellence in the performance of NTT faculty in the fulfillment of their contractual responsibilities.

**9.04.01 EVALUATION PROCESS**

NTT faculty will be considered for merit in the Spring semester based on the annual review for the prior calendar year. Faculty under consideration must be currently contracted at 0.5 FTE or greater, and have an annual evaluation for the prior calendar year.

The Colleges will be provided a proportional allocation of the merit pool to distribute. Department Heads will forward a ranked list of names of eligible NTT faculty being recommended for merit to the Dean. The Dean will independently review the submitted names and make the awards.

#### **9.04.02 MERIT POOLS**

Merit award pools will be established for AY 2025/2026 and AY 2026/2027 These pools will be distributed as follows:

Spring 2026 – Up to 25 awards of \$2,600 each

Spring 2027 – Up to 25 awards of \$2,600 each

Merit awards will be paid on a one-time only basis, and will not be added to base salary. They will be included in the first paycheck following the notification of merit.

A request for recommendations for merit will be sent to the colleges in the Spring of the academic year. Merit will be awarded in June of each year.

A report of merit increases, including names and academic unit, will be provided to the Associated Faculty of Montana State University Executive Committee after the awards have been determined.

#### **9.04.03 NON-GRIEVABILITY**

Merit decisions are not grievable under the terms and conditions of this contract.

#### **9.05 SUMMER SALARY**

The University may rehire faculty members on AY contracts for specific duties during the summer. Maximum allowable summer salary varies depending on source of funds. From all University-controlled sources, summer salary will not exceed 3/9ths of AY salary. Summer salary from State funds (e.g., summer session duties) will not exceed 2/9ths of AY salary, unless a greater amount is specifically authorized by the Provost

Faculty on AY contracts may earn up to 3/9ths of their AY salary during the summer if there is sufficient external funding available, and the external sponsor(s) and the appropriate University administrators approve it. Salary will be based on the faculty member's salary rate as of April 1 of the academic year preceding the summer appointment. Faculty who receive some summer salary from State funds may also be compensated from external sources as long as the total does not exceed 3/9th of their AY salary. Funds from external sources must be identified in the direct costs of sponsored projects.

### **ARTICLE 10: BENEFITS**

#### **10.01 GROUP INSURANCE**

Employer contributions for eligible employees of the Montana University System group insurance plan shall be equivalent to the amount provided by state statutes for the years of this agreement.

## **10.02 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

The Employer agrees that all employees covered under this agreement shall be covered by unemployment insurance as provided by Sections 39-51-101, et seq., MCA.

## **10.03 WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

All faculty will be entitled to worker's compensation benefits as outlined in the MUS Worker's Compensation program.

## **10.04 TUITION WAIVERS**

Employee and dependent tuition waivers will be administered in accordance with Board of Regents policies 940.13 and 940.32 as revised November 18, 2022. <https://mus.edu/borpol/bor900/index.html>

## **RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

Both parties will work towards equal contributions to the two retirement systems.

### **10.04.01 MONTANA TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)**

Faculty who participate in the teachers' retirement system are subject to retirement provisions as outlined in Section 19-4-101, et seq., MCA.

### **10.04.02 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OPTIONAL REQUIREMENT PROGRAM (TIAA-CREF)**

Faculty who participate in the University System Optional Retirement Program (TIAA-CREF) are subject to the retirement provisions appropriate to their individual contracts and elected options. Authority for participation in the Optional Retirement Program is found in, Title 19, sec. 21, MCA.

## **ARTICLE 11: FACULTY LEAVES**

### **11.01 SICK LEAVE**

"Sick leave" means a leave of absence with pay for:

- (A) a sickness suffered by an employee or a member of the employee's immediate family;  
or
- (B) the time that an employee is unable to perform job duties because of:
  1. a physical or mental illness, injury, or disability;
  2. maternity or pregnancy-related disability or treatment, including prenatal care, birth, or medical care for the employee or the employee's child;
  3. parental leave as provided in Sec. 2-18-606, MCA;
  4. quarantine resulting from exposure to a contagious disease;

5. examination or treatment by a licensed health care provider;
6. short-term attendance, in an agency's discretion, to care for a relative or household member not covered by subsection (a) until other care can reasonably be obtained;
7. necessary care for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition, as defined in the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993; or
8. death or funeral attendance of an immediate family member or, at the University's discretion, another person. [Sec. 2-18-601, MCA]

#### **11.01.01 SICK LEAVE CREDITS**

Each faculty member shall earn sick leave credits from the first full pay period of employment in a manner consistent with the state employee sick leave statutes.

A faculty member may not accrue sick leave credits during a leave of absence without pay. Faculty members are not entitled to be paid for sick leave until they have been continuously employed for ninety (90) days. Upon completion of the qualifying period, the faculty member is entitled to the sick leave credits earned.

#### **11.01.02 SICK LEAVE DONATIONS**

Sick leave donations shall be administered in accordance with University policy on sick leave fund and sick leave grants.

It is the policy of Montana State University-Bozeman to allow eligible University employees to share accumulated sick leave with other eligible employees according to guidelines developed by the Board of Regents to comply with 2-18-618, M.C.A. It is the objective of this policy to establish eligibility requirements and procedures to administer donated sick leave. No funds shall be attached to any hours of sick leave which are donated or received through this program. Since the department employing the recipient of sick leave donations must pay all costs for the use of that sick leave, department head/director and dean/vice president approval must be obtained before an employee can accept the donation of any sick leave.

This policy allow, but does not guarantee, the establishment of a pool of donated sick leave hours for eligible employees to draw from in accordance with this policy.

##### **(A) Definitions**

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. "Extensive illness or accident" means an illness, injury, disability, disability period, or quarantine that incapacitates an employee for 10 or more consecutive working days.
2. "Pregnancy or childbirth related health condition" as described under the Maternity and Parental Leave Policy  
[https://www.montana.edu/policy/onemsu/hr\\_policies/maternity\\_parental\\_leave.htm](https://www.montana.edu/policy/onemsu/hr_policies/maternity_parental_leave.htm)

3. “Immediate family member” means the employee's spouse and any member of the employee's household, or any parent, child, grandparent, grandchild or corresponding in-law.

(A) Eligibility to Receive Sick Leave Grants

To be eligible to receive donated sick leave, the employee must:

1. be a current employee of Montana State University-Bozeman;
2. have completed the 90 day qualifying period to use sick leave;  
[https://www.montana.edu/policy/hr\\_policies/donated\\_sick\\_leave.html](https://www.montana.edu/policy/hr_policies/donated_sick_leave.html)
3. suffer from an extensive illness or accident, or pregnancy or childbirth related health condition which results in absence from work of at least 10 consecutive working days;
4. not be on a long term leave of absence which is unrelated to the extensive illness or accident;
5. not be on a layoff or in a no-pay status;
6. not be eligible to receive workers' compensation benefits;
7. exhaust all personally accrued sick leave, annual leave, and compensatory time;
8. provide the employee’s supervisor a physician's certification of extensive illness or accident, pregnancy or childbirth related health condition; and
9. obtain approval from the department head/director and dean/vice president to receive a donations of a specific amount of sick leave from other employees.

An employee may also receive donated sick leave when a member of the employee’s immediate family is suffering from an extensive illness or accident which requires the attendance of the employee until professional or other assistance can be obtained.

If the employee meets the eligibility requirements and the donation of sick leave is approved, Human Resources will add the sick leave to the recipient employee’s sick leave balance on an as-needed basis at the end of each pay period. Employees may receive a maximum of 240 hours of donated sick leave during any 12 month period, calculated from the first day the employee uses donated sick leave. The maximum allowable leave for part time employees shall be prorated according to FTE status.

(B) Eligibility to Contribute Sick Leave

To donate sick leave, an employee must:

1. be a current employee of Montana State University-Bozeman
2. complete the 90 day qualifying period to use sick leave; and
3. have a minimum balance of 40 hours of sick leave after donation. The minimum balance for part-time employees is prorated according to their FTE.

The maximum sick leave an employee may contribute is 40 hours in any 12 month period. All contributions are voluntary.

(C) Donated Sick Leave Form

To donate sick leave to another individual, the contributor *and* recipient will be indicated on the Donated Sick Leave Form:

[https://www.montana.edu/policy/hr\\_policies/donated\\_sick\\_leave.html](https://www.montana.edu/policy/hr_policies/donated_sick_leave.html)

Signatures of the department head/director and dean/vice president indicate they accept responsibility for covering the costs of the donated sick leave. The completed form with all necessary approvals should be submitted to Human Resources.

An employee may have personal reasons for not accepting donated sick leave or may have exceeded the maximum receipt of sick leave donations. In these cases, contributions will not be deducted from the donor's sick leave balance.

A department head/director and dean/vice president may refuse to accept some or all sick leave donations. The department head/director and/or dean/vice president should indicate the denial and amount of leave denied, and return the form to the receiving employee and copy the Chief Human Resources Officer.

Upon receipt of the completed Donated Sick Leave Form, Human Resources will deduct the donated leave from the contributor's sick leave and credit the sick leave to the recipient in the order the Donated Sick Leave Forms are received, on an as-needed basis. Use of sick leave should be reflected on the receiving employee's timesheet. Employees who donate sick leave may check their leave balances on My Info. An employee may choose not to accept donated sick leave, or may not need all hours donated, or may have exceeded the maximum donation allowed. In such cases, donations will not be deducted from the donor's sick leave balance.

(D) Prohibited Uses of Donated Sick Leave

An employee may not use donated sick leave:

- 1) if the employee is eligible for workers' compensation wage loss benefits;
- 2) during a leave of absence without pay which was approved for reasons other than an extensive illness, or accident, or providing necessary assistance as described in section (A) and (B) above.
- 3) when the employee has annual leave, sick leave or compensatory time available. If an employee has leave available that accrued while the employee was using donated sick leave, the accrued leave must be exhausted before using any additional donated sick leave;
- 4) retroactively to a previous pay period in which the employee was in a leave without pay status and had not yet become eligible to receive a sick leave donation. Applying donated sick leave to time spent in a leave without pay status in the same pay period that the employee becomes eligible is not considered retroactive use of sick leave.

MSU will not cash out donated sick leave at termination of employment under Section 2-18-618, M.C.A.

### **11.01.03 LUMP-SUM PAYMENT ON TERMINATION**

Except as otherwise provided in Sec. 2-18-1311 (VEBA), a faculty member who terminates employment with the University is entitled to a lump-sum payment equal to one-fourth (1/4) of the pay attributed to the accumulated sick leave. The pay attributed to the accumulated

sick leave shall be computed on the basis of the faculty member's salary at the time of termination. Accrual of sick leave credits for calculating the lump-sum payment provided for in this subsection begins July 1, 1971.

A faculty member who receives a lump-sum payment and who is again employed by the University shall not be credited with any sick leave for which compensation has previously been given.

#### **11.01.04 REPORTING SICK LEAVE**

It is the responsibility of the faculty member to ensure proper reporting of the use of sick leave for record keeping purposes. Any occurrence that necessitates a leave of absence as specified in Section 11.01 shall be reported by the faculty member to the Human Resource Office each month.

Abuse of sick leave is cause for disciplinary action under the provisions of 2-18-618, M.C.A. Abuse of sick leave occurs when a faculty member misrepresents the actual reason for charging an absence to sick leave, when a faculty member uses sick leave for unauthorized purposes, or when a faculty member neglects to report sick leave.

A faculty member who needs to take sick leave shall inform the appropriate immediate supervisor as soon as possible.

#### **11.01.05 OTHER SICK LEAVE REQUIREMENTS**

Sick leave charges in excess of earned sick leave credits may be charged to leave without pay.

Any holidays that fall during a period that a faculty member is on sick leave will be charged as a holiday and not taken off the total accumulated sick leave.

Faculty cannot be required to take sick leave unless they are on leave under one of the sick leave provisions of this agreement.

The department head, dean or Provost may require medical certification to confirm the appropriate use of sick leave, including the need to care for an ill or injured immediate family member. A licensed physician, or another licensed health care provider competent to treat and diagnose the particular illness or condition, must provide medical certification. All required medical certifications or examinations must be job-related and consistent with business necessity.

Faculty members are eligible to use accumulated sick leave or, if sick leave is exhausted, unpaid leave to tend to the medical needs of an immediate family member in accordance with University policy and the Family Medical Leave Act. Faculty members who accumulate annual leave credits are eligible to use annual leave for the aforementioned family medical purposes. In addition, any faculty member may request leave without pay for family medical purposes.

### 11.01.06 MATERNITY AND PARENTAL LEAVE

MSU-Bozeman does not discriminate against and/or exclude from employment any applicant or employee on the basis of a pregnancy or childbirth related health condition. A pregnancy or childbirth related health condition shall be treated the same as any temporary disability for all personnel actions (e.g., length and extension of leave, retention of seniority, reinstatement, or fringe benefits).

In accordance with state statute, it is unlawful for an employer to:

1. Terminate an employee's employment because of a pregnancy or childbirth health related condition;
2. Refuse to grant an employee a reasonable leave of absence for a pregnancy or childbirth related health condition;
3. Deny an employee who is disabled as a result of a pregnancy or childbirth related health condition pregnancy any compensation to which the employee is entitled through accumulation of leave or disability benefits. The university may require a medical certificate verifying the employee is unable to perform the employee's duties for the period of the requested disability;
4. Require an employee to take a mandatory maternity leave for an unreasonable length of time.

#### (A) Use of Maternity of Leave

A pregnant employee may request a leave of absence for purposes of the pregnancy or childbirth health related condition, and care of the newborn. The employee may use accrued paid leave and unpaid leave as outlined in the policy.

[Montana Law \(49-2-310, MCA\)](#) provides that pregnant employees are entitled to receive a "reasonable" leave of absence for maternity. "Reasonable" in the case of a normal pregnancy and delivery is deemed to be six (6) calendar weeks, and this period of leave will be granted after the birth of a child, if requested. An employee is not required to obtain medical certification for this initial six (6) calendar weeks of leave following the birth of a child. Accrued sick leave, donated sick leave, annual leave, compensatory time (if applicable), and leave-without-pay may be used for this six-(6) week period of leave. FMLA leave will be used for those [employees who are eligible](#).

After this six-(6) week period of sick leave, employees may be eligible to use other university leave benefits, such as additional sick leave, for appropriate health related conditions, remaining FMLA leave up to twelve (12) weeks, annual leave, compensatory leave, or leave-without-pay; eligibility for such additional leave is determined by the terms of such other leave policies.

Nothing in this policy prohibits an employee from voluntarily returning to work sooner than six (6) calendar weeks after the birth of a child.

#### (B) Use of Parental Leave

Under state law ([Section 2-18-606, MCA](#)), parental leave is available for birth fathers or for employees who are adopting a child immediately following a child's birth or placement.

Fathers and adopting employees are entitled to a leave of absence of fifteen (15) working days following the birth of a child or placement of an adopted child. Employees may use sick leave for the initial fifteen (15) days.

Birth fathers and adoptive parents may extend leave in accordance with [FMLA](#) and MSU leave policies, and accrued annual leave, compensatory time (if applicable), and leave-without-pay may be used for FMLA leave in accordance with [MSU's FMLA Policy](#).

(C) Concurrent FMLA Leave

Eligible employees may take up to twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for the birth or adoption of a child in accordance with the [Federal Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#) and [MSU's FMLA Policy](#). Maternity and Parental leave run concurrently with FMLA leave. When eligible employees take maternity or parental leave concurrently with FMLA leave, the FMLA policy requirements also apply.

(D) Employee Responsibilities

- 1) If known employees should notify their supervisor of the anticipated dates of absence and the proposed leave types.
- 2) The employee should contact Human Resources for information about continuation of health insurance coverage.
- 3) Due to the nature of a pregnancy or childbirth related leave, it is understood that the leave request may need to be changed. The employee will notify the supervisor of any changes which may be necessary in the leave arrangements. Employees wishing to return to work before the end of the requested leave may do so.

(E) Department Responsibilities

- 1) Pregnancy or childbirth related health conditions shall be treated as any other temporary medical disability.
- 2) The supervisor shall notify University Human Resources if an employee will be using leave for pregnancy or childbirth related health conditions.
- 3) The department will make available the employee's original position or an equivalent position at equivalent pay upon completion of the approved leave.
- 4) Cross reference Section 1070 "Family and Medical Leave," of University Policy and Section 11.01, "Sick Leave, Section 11.01.02 Donated Sick Leave" Section 11.07, "Leave of Absence Without Pay," of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 5) The department is responsible to make available the employee's original position or an equivalent position at equivalent pay upon completion of the approved leave.
- 6) Cross reference Section 1070 "Family and Medical Leave," of University Policy and Section 11.01, "Sick Leave, Section 11.01.02 Donated Sick Leave" Section 11.01.07, "Parental Leave", Section 11.07, "Leave of Absence Without Pay," of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## **11.02 MILITARY LEAVE**

Eligible faculty members are entitled to the benefits and protections of military leave in accordance with state and federal laws governing military leave for public employees.

A period of absence from employment occurring either during a war involving the United States or in any other national emergency and for ninety (90) days thereafter for one of the following reasons is considered as service for the purpose of determining the number of years of employment used in calculating annual leave credits under this section:

- (A) having been ordered on active duty with the armed forces of the United States;
- (B) voluntary service on active duty in the armed forces or on ships operated by or for the United States government; or
- (C) direct assignment to the United States department of defense for duties related to national defense efforts if a leave of absence has been granted by the Employer.

## **11.03 PUBLIC SERVICE LEAVE**

In accordance with 39-2-104, MCA, faculty members who are elected or appointed to a public office in the city, county, or state shall be eligible for leaves of absence, not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days per year, while they are performing public service. Employees, upon complying with the requirements below, shall be restored to their positions, with the same seniority, status, compensation, hours, locality, and benefits as existed immediately prior to their leaves of absence for public service:

- (A) An employee granted a leave of absence shall make arrangements to return to work within ten (10) days following the completion of the service for which the leave was granted unless the employee is unable to do so because of illness or disabling injury certified to by a licensed physician.
- (B) Unemployment benefits paid to a person by application of this section may not be charged against an Employer under the unemployment insurance law.

## **11.04 JURY DUTY AND WITNESS LEAVE**

- (A) In accordance with Section 2-18-619, MCA, a faculty member who is under proper summons as a juror shall collect all fees and allowances payable as a result of the service and forward the fees to the appropriate University accounting office. Juror fees must be applied against the amount due the employee from the Employer. However, if an employee elects to use annual leave to serve on a jury, the employee may not be required to remit the juror fees to the Employer. An employee is not required to remit to the Employer any expense or mileage allowance paid by the court.
- (B) An employee subpoenaed to serve as a witness shall collect all fees and allowances payable as a result of the service and forward the fees to the appropriate University accounting office. Witness fees must be applied against the amount due the employee from the Employer. However, if an employee elects to use annual leave to serve as a witness, the employee may not be required to remit the witness fees to the Employer.

- An employee is not required to remit to the Employer any expense or mileage allowances paid by the court.
- (C) Employers may request the court to excuse their employees from jury duty if they are needed for the proper operation of a unit of state or local government.

### **11.05 PAID LEAVE FOR DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

The University may grant up to fifteen (15) days in a calendar year of a paid leave of absence for a faculty member to participate in specialized disaster relief services for the American Red Cross if:

- (A) the employee is a certified American Red Cross disaster relief volunteer; and
- (B) the American Red Cross has requested the employee's services.

Leave time granted pursuant to this section:

- (A) must be paid at the regular rate of compensation, including regular group, retirement, or leave accrual benefits, for the regular work hours during which the employee is absent from the employee's regular duties;
- (B) commences upon approval of the employee's employing agency; and
- (C) may not be charged against any other leave to which the employee is entitled.

### **11.06 ANNUAL LEAVE**

Faculty members who hold academic rank and are appointed on fiscal year [FY] contracts may accumulate annual leave at the rate of 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  days per month (21 days per year) of actual employment, but are not entitled to any annual leave with pay until they have been continuously employed for six (6) calendar months. Faculty members with academic rank who are appointed on academic year [AY] contracts shall accrue no annual leave.

Annual leave for eligible faculty members on fiscal year (12-month) employment contracts is to be taken at the mutual convenience of the department and the employee and should be arranged in advance with the department head.

Annual leave may be accumulated as of the last day of any calendar year to a total not to exceed forty two (42) days. Unused annual leave may be compensated upon termination, not to exceed forty two (42) days. If a faculty member's status is changed from a fiscal year [FY] contract to an academic year [AY] contract, the faculty member may elect to receive compensation for unused accrued annual leave at the time of the change of status or carry the accumulation.

### **11.07 LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY**

Faculty members are eligible for a leave of absence without pay after two (2) years of continuous service. Requests for leave without pay must be approved in accordance with the provisions below. All approvals of leave requests shall take into account the needs of the University or the system, as appropriate. The provisions are as follows:

- (A) Leaves without pay shall not be deemed earned leave time, nor be deemed or become a vested right.
- (B) Leaves without pay shall normally not exceed two (2) years in duration.
- (C) The President or designee has authority to approve leaves of absence without pay for faculty members.
- (D) Employees who are on an approved leave of absence without pay may continue to be covered by the Employer's group insurance for up to two (2) years provided they pay the amount of the Employer's contribution plus any required employee contribution. Payment must be made to the business office prior to the close of the payroll date in order for the coverage to be effective.

## **11.08 DISABILITY**

Employment matters involving disability will be administered in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Medical Leave Act.

## **11.09 MAINTENANCE OF RIGHTS**

A faculty member returning from approved leave shall return to the same position and compensated leave time shall be regarded as regular employment time. Upon returning from approved paid leave, the faculty member will receive any cost of living increase in salary or benefits that was awarded to department faculty during the time of leave.

## **ARTICLE 12: SANCTIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND TERMINATIONS**

### **12.01 SANCTIONS**

Any employee in the bargaining unit may be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Warning letters and formal reprimands may become part of the faculty member's personnel file and may be used in conjunction with subsequent personnel considerations for three (3) years following the date of the sanction. After three (3) years, the letters and reprimands and all references thereto shall be removed from the employee's personnel files unless there are additional documented violations within the three-year period.

Warning letters and formal reprimands that are applicable to pending legal or quasi-legal proceedings may be retained in the personnel file for longer than three (3) years, but must be removed upon the conclusion of the legal or quasi-legal proceeding if no documented proven pattern exists as described above.

### **12.02 CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE OR DISCHARGE**

The Employer may discipline or discharge employees for just cause and with due process, which includes but is not limited to the following:

- (A) conviction of a felony or of a crime involving moral turpitude during the period of employment at the institution or the willful concealment of such crime in making application for employment;
- (B) conviction of theft of University property or property in the custody of the University;
- (C) fraud or deliberate misrepresentation of professional preparation, accomplishment or experience in connection with initial hiring or in the submission of materials for evaluation for promotion, tenure or salary adjustment purposes;
- (D) plagiarism in professional papers or reports, or deliberate falsification of University records;
- (E) deliberate failure by the faculty member engaged in private consulting to inform his/her client that the faculty member is acting as a private consultant and not as a representative of the University;
- (F) exploiting or abusing students or employees, including sexual harassment;
- (G) failure to carry out the responsibilities of a faculty member;
- (H) violation of policies;
- (I) abuse of sick leave;
- (J) unreasonably endangering the welfare or unethical exploitation of students, employees, or campus visitors; and
- (K) gross insubordination.

## **ARTICLE 13: GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION**

### **13.01 DEFINITION**

A grievance is any dispute regarding the misapplication and/or misrepresentation or violation of a provision of this agreement by the University administration alleged by a bargaining unit member and/or group of bargaining unit members and/or by the AFMSU on its own behalf.

### **13.02 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The Commissioner, the University administration and the Association agree that they will use their best efforts to encourage the informal and prompt settlement of grievances that may arise among the Association, its members, the University administration and/or the Commissioner. The orderly process hereinafter set forth will be the method used for the resolution of all grievances. However, faculty members who file complaints alleging unlawful discrimination or other unlawful conduct under administrative, state or federal complaint procedures may not also utilize this method to resolve grievances over the same matter(s) and the University administration and Commissioner shall be under no obligation to process any such grievances that may be filed.

The University administration and the Association shall each appoint one official grievance officer and shall notify the other party of the appointment within one (1) month of the date of final ratification of the Agreement.

### **13.02.01 INFORMAL PROCEDURE**

Any faculty member may present and discuss his/her grievance with the University administration with or without a representative of the Association. Similarly, a representative of the Association may present and discuss a grievance with the University administration on behalf of any faculty member or group of faculty members. Any settlement, withdrawal or disposition of a grievance at this informal stage shall not constitute a binding precedent in the settlement of similar grievances.

### **13.02.02 FORMAL PROCEDURE**

A grievance must be filed by a faculty member or the Association within thirty (30) days from the date the grievable event was determined. Any grievance not processed in accordance with the time limit specified herein shall for the purposes of this Agreement be deemed null and without further recourse.

- (A) Step One. The grievance must be stated in writing setting forth the specific complaint including the sections of this Agreement allegedly violated and the remedy requested. All grievances shall be filed with the designated Grievance Officers. Within twenty (20) days of the receipt of the grievance, both grievance officers shall meet jointly with the grievant and, if they wish, a representative of their choosing for the purpose of discussing the grievance. The Administration grievance officer shall within twenty (20) days after the grievance meeting issue a decision with reasons in writing to the grievant and the Association.
- (B) Step Two. If the grievance has not been settled at Step One, the grievant or the Association may submit the grievance in writing to the President together with a copy of the decision of the grievance officer no later than ten (10) days after receipt of the written decision of the grievance officer or the expiration of the time limits for making such decision,. The President shall issue a decision with reasons in writing to the grievant and the Association within twenty (20) days after the receipt of the grievance.
- (C) Step Three. If the grievance has not been settled at Step Two, the grievant or the Association may submit the grievance in writing to the Commissioner together with a copy of the decision of the President no later than ten (10) days after the receipt of the written decision of the President, The Commissioner or his/her designee shall issue a decision with reasons in writing to the grievant and the Association within twenty (20) days after the receipt of the grievance.
- (D) Step Four. If the grievance has not been settled at Step Three, , the Association may request arbitration by giving written notice to that effect to the Commissioner no later than ten (10) days after the receipt of the written decision of the Commissioner. Upon receipt of the request for arbitration, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall be requested to provide a list of five names. The Association's representative and the Commissioner or his/her designee shall alternately strike the name of an arbitrator until one name remains; that person shall be designated the arbitrator. The determination of which party shall strike the first name shall be made by agreement of the parties, or if no agreement is reached, by the flip of a coin. The parties may select a person to serve as arbitrator in a different manner if mutually agreed upon.

### **13.03 ARBITRATION**

In no event shall the arbitrator have authority to add to, subtract from, modify or amend the provisions of the Agreement. The arbitrator shall not have any authority to order any remedy that directly or indirectly grants tenure. The arbitrator shall not have any authority to order any remedy that directly or indirectly awards a promotion, except where all faculty committees plus the Provost recommend promotion. The final decision or award of the arbitrator shall be made within thirty (30) days after the closing of the hearing. Such decision or award shall be binding upon the Association, the Commissioner, the University administration and the affected faculty member(s). Each party will bear its own costs and the costs of the arbitration proceedings will be shared equally.

## **ARTICLE 14: ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **14.01 ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom, on campus, and off campus while in the course of fulfilling their obligations as University faculty members. In discussing their subject, they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter that has no relation to their subject. The intent of this statement is not to discourage what is “controversial.” Controversy is at the heart of the free academic inquiry which the entire statement is designed to foster. This passage serves to underscore the need for faculty members to avoid persistently intruding material that has no relation to their subject.

Faculty members are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

### **14.02 ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

All members of the University community are expected to relate in a professional manner. It is the responsibility of administration and faculty to ensure that members of the University community are free from being subject to abuse, threats, intimidation, bullying, discrimination or unprofessional behavior. The definition of a safe working environment (see Section 6.02) shall include ethical and professional standards as defined (Section 15.02) and non-discrimination (Section 2.12). Similarly, each faculty member is expected to participate in the work of the department and of the institution.

#### **14.02.01 COURSE OUTLINE/SYLLABUS**

The general content of a course or academic program must be described with reasonable accuracy in catalogs and other documents available to students. Instructors must state in

writing (which may include writing available online) the course content, learning outcomes, and objectives. This material must be made available to the students by the second class meeting.

#### **14.02.02 COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

Faculty are expected to teach classes in accordance with official descriptions and meet classes in accordance with published schedules online, at on-campus locations, off-campus locations germane to the subject matter, or at other locations. No classes will be taught on-line, off-campus or at unscheduled locations without prior written approval of the department head and dean.

(A) Classroom Behavior

Instructors may establish reasonable rules for classroom behavior, in addition to those in the Student Conduct Code. Such rules shall be articulated as part of the written course materials provided to the students.

(B) Collaboration Among Students

Instructors are encouraged to provide collaborative learning opportunities but must state in writing the limits of assistance permitted between and among students in a course assignment.

(C) Instruction Responsibilities

Instructors may establish rules for attendance and make-up exams and must state these in writing. Instructors must be prompt in meeting their scheduled classes, be available for appointments with students at designated times, be well prepared for classes, and be fair and prompt in grading class assignments and tests. The scheduled final examination period must be used for final examinations in the class or other instruction.

#### **14.02.03 PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENTS**

Factors such as race, creed, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, political beliefs or personal relationships must not be considered in matters of academic evaluation, academic assignments, or classroom procedures. If an instructor learns personal information about the student (religious and political views, sexual orientation, etc.) during the progress of the course, he or she must not share such information with the other students, except with permission of the student.

Additionally, all faculty covered by this agreement must abide by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) which affords students certain rights with respect to their education records.

#### **14.02.04 OFFICE HOURS**

Instructors are required to make time available for student conferences through regularly scheduled office hours. Office hours should be convenient for both students and the instructor with the opportunity provided for prearranged appointments. Available office

hours will be published and communicated to students in writing.

#### **14.02.05 ABSENCE FROM CLASS**

In case of illness or emergency, the faculty member shall notify the department and arrangements should be made to have another staff member instruct the class or promptly notify students of cancellation. Classes may not be canceled for the convenience of the instructor. When an instructor knows in advance that he or she will miss a class, arrangements must be made to have the work of the class continue, either by arranging for a substitute instructor, by scheduling an examination for that day, or by providing some alternate work assignment for the students.

#### **14.02.06 GRADING**

Grading is the prerogative and responsibility of the instructor. Instructors must specify in writing, as part of the syllabus, the specific grading policies for the class. The assigned final grade must reflect the performance of the student in the course commensurate with the content and objectives of the course. If a student questions his or her grade, the instructor has a responsibility to discuss the matter with the student. If the instructor cannot satisfactorily resolve the matter, the student must be advised of the grading grievance procedures, see Section 17.

Graded examinations, papers, and other sources of evaluation are to be available to the student for inspection and discussion. If the instructor chooses to retain these materials rather than return them to students, they must be kept for a period of one year. If graded materials become the property of the student, then uncollected materials must be kept for one semester. Non-tenure-track faculty covered by this contract should arrange for storage with the department in their absence. The grade records will be retained for at least one year to provide the opportunity for review and resolution of grade disputes.

#### **14.02.07 INSTRUCTION COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

Students who have complaints about instructors who have failed to meet the instructional responsibilities set forth in Sections 17 may submit an Instruction Complaint Form to the instructor's Department Head (forms available at departmental office and/or the Dean of Students office).

The policy can be found at:

[www.montana.edu/policy/student\\_conduct/index.html#instructioncomplaint](http://www.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/index.html#instructioncomplaint)

The complaint must be presented in accordance with the instructions related to filing the complaint.

## ARTICLE 15: ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

### 15.01 DEFINITIONS

*"Consensual Romantic Relationship"* means an amorous relationship between unrelated adults to which both parties have consented.

*"Employee"* means a regularly employed faculty or staff member, part-time or academic support faculty or staff member, a student employed by any department of the University, and any other persons, including students, using facilities who are not covered by contract or agreement.

*"Inquiry"* means information gathering and initial fact-finding to determine if the allegation or apparent instance of misconduct warrants an investigation.

*"Investigator"* means the principal investigator, co-principal investigator, and any other person who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of a sponsored activity. For purposes of the requirements of this section pertaining to disclosure of financial interests and sponsored activities, the term "investigator" includes the investigator's spouse and dependent children.

*"Research"* means a systemic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge including, but not limited to, scientific, applied, behavioral and social-sciences research and/or any such activity for which funding is available from federal agencies.

*"Research misconduct"* means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

- (A) Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them;
- (B) Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record;
- (C) Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit;
- (D) Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

*"Sponsored Activities"* means research, creative and educational activities that are funded by grants, contracts or other agreements administered by the University.

### 15.02 STANDARDS

The faculty and University Administration are responsible for assuring the highest ethical and professional standards and behavior in:

- (A) working with undergraduate and graduate students, including the elimination of racial, ethnic and sexual prejudice and harassment from the classroom and entire University community,
- (B) working with faculty and staff,

- (C) performing their contracted responsibilities, including the employment and use of graduate assistants or adjunct faculty and staff,
- (D) working with public and private agencies, organizations and businesses,
- (E) preventing conflicts of interest and reporting work done outside the University
- (F) conducting peer review for all faculty members,
- (G) conducting research and creative activity (see Section 15.04 for "research misconduct")
- (H) adhering to standards for biosafety, research utilizing human and animal subjects, and the use of radioactive materials (see Research Policies),
- (I) respecting confidentiality and privacy in the use of information systems (see Section 3.05 and Computing Policies Manual),
- (J) respecting copyright and patent requirements (see Sections 16.03 and 16.04),
- (K) participating in University planning and governance

### **15.03 INVESTIGATIONS OF COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS OF STANDARDS**

Complaints of alleged breaches of these standards shall be investigated using the procedures set forth in Section 15.04, Research Misconduct, as general guidelines. The procedures may be adapted as necessary to consider a specific complaint.

### **15.04 RESEARCH MISCONDUCT**

It is the policy of the University to require the highest ethical standards in the research of its faculty and staff; to inquire into and, if necessary, investigate and resolve promptly and fairly all instances of alleged or apparent misconduct; and, as appropriate, to comply in a timely manner with requirements for reporting cases of possible misconduct to sponsoring agencies when sponsored research funds are involved. Misconduct in research shall be considered a breach of contract between the employee and the University.

This policy applies to any research activity undertaken by faculty or staff. Cases of research/academic misconduct involving students are subject to the disciplinary rules governing students, but may be reviewed, where appropriate, under this policy.

In addition to the research itself, this policy applies to:

- (A) applications or proposals for extramural or intramural funding of research, research training or activities related to research, or training, such as the dissemination of research information;
- (B) plagiarism of records produced in the course of research or activities related to that research or training.

This policy addresses only research misconduct as defined herein. Other misconduct such as reckless disregard for accuracy, failure to supervise, and other serious deficiencies but not within the definition of research misconduct may constitute breaches of Section 15.02, Ethical and Professional Standards and shall be addressed by the cognizant dean, Provost, or Vice President as provided in that Section.

For purposes of the research misconduct provisions, the definitions found in 45 CFR Parts 50

and 93 shall apply in addition to the definitions herein. To the extent the definitions are restricted to U.S. Public Health Service [PHS] research, the University hereby adopts the definitions to apply to all research misconduct regardless of funding source. ORI, as used herein, means the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity.

#### **15.04.01 REPORTING THE ALLEGATION**

An allegation of misconduct in research, defined as a disclosure of possible research misconduct through any means of communication, should be made to the appropriate department head or dean who shall report the allegation to the Vice President for Research, Creativity & Technology Transfer (VPR). Promptly after receiving a disclosure of possible research misconduct through any means of communication, the VPR shall assess the allegation to determine if an inquiry (i.e., an initial review of the evidence to determine if the criteria for conducting an investigation have been met) will be conducted. An inquiry is warranted if:

- (A) it meets the definition of research misconduct;
- (B) it involves either the research, applications for research support, or research records; and,
- (C) the allegation is sufficiently credible and specific so that potential evidence of research misconduct may be identified.

#### **15.04.02 INQUIRY – APPOINTING THE INQUIRER**

The VPR shall appoint an inquirer who shall complete the inquiry within sixty (60) calendar days of its initiation, unless circumstances warrant a longer period. The inquirer shall conduct the review, prepare the inquiry report, solicit comments on the report from the respondent, consider the respondent's comments, and issue the final inquiry report within the 60 day period. If the inquiry takes longer than 60 days to complete, the inquirer shall include documentation of the reasons for the delay in the inquiry record.

The purpose of the inquiry is to determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe misconduct occurred and whether a formal investigation is recommended.

Upon appointment, the inquirer will receive a briefing from the VPR and the University Legal Counsel on the relevant misconduct guidelines, federal regulations, and the legal parameters of the inquiry.

#### **15.04.03 THE INQUIRY REPORT**

The inquiry report shall contain the following information:

- (A) The name and position of the respondent(s);
- (B) A description of the allegations of research misconduct;
- (C) The federal or sponsor support involved, including, for example, grant numbers, grant applications, contracts, and publications listing support;
- (D) The basis for recommending that the alleged actions warrant an investigation; and
- (E) Any comments on the report by the respondent or the complainant.

#### **15.04.04 THE INQUIRY DETERMINATION**

The VPR will make a written determination of whether an investigation is warranted. In making his or her determination, the VPR may take into account the information provided by the Inquirer and any oral or written statements made by the person accused of misconduct. The VPR may choose not to proceed with an Investigation if there is no reason to believe the misconduct occurred or if the person accused of misconduct admits the misconduct occurred and it is determined that an investigation will not likely uncover further information necessary to reach a final conclusion regarding the allegation.

The VPR shall notify the person who reported the alleged misconduct and the person accused of misconduct of his or her determination and recommendations in writing. If an investigation is to be conducted, the notification shall include a clear statement of the allegations to be investigated.

If a decision not to investigate is rendered, the complainant may appeal to the President who will render the final decision of the University.

The VPR will notify granting agencies supporting the research/creative activity under investigation as may be required by the granting agency, state or federal law or regulations.

#### **15.04.05 THE INVESTIGATION – APPOINTMENT OF THE INVESTIGATOR(S)**

If the inquiry results in a determination that an investigation is warranted, the VPR shall appoint investigators to conduct the investigation. The investigator may be either:

- (A) a group of institutions, professional organizations, or mixed groups which will conduct research misconduct proceedings for other institutions, or
- (B) other person(s) that the VPR reasonably determines to be qualified by practice or experience to conduct research misconduct proceedings.

#### **15.04.06 INVESTIGATION TIMELINES**

The appointed Investigator(s) shall begin the investigation within thirty (30) calendar days of the VPR's written determination. On or before the date on which the investigation begins, the VPR will send the inquiry report and the written determination to the Office of Research Integrity [ORI], or other federal agency, if required under federal regulations.

The Investigator(s) shall use best efforts to complete the investigation within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days of the date on which it began, including conducting the investigation, preparing the report of findings, providing the draft report for comment, and sending the final report to ORI, if applicable.

If it becomes apparent that the investigation cannot be completed within that period, the VPR shall promptly request an extension in writing from Office of Research Integrity, if applicable. This time period does not apply to separate personnel actions that may be undertaken as a result of the investigation.

#### **15.04.07 CONDUCT OF THE INVESTIGATION**

In conducting all investigations, the Investigator(s) shall:

- (A) use diligent efforts to ensure that the investigation is thorough and sufficiently documented and includes examination of all reasonably available research records and evidence relevant to reaching a decision on the merits of the allegations;
- (B) interview each respondent, complainant, and any other available person who has been reasonably identified as having information regarding any relevant aspects of the investigation, including witnesses identified by the respondent; record or transcribe each interview; provide the recording or transcript to the interviewee for correction; and include the recording or transcript in the record of investigation;
- (C) pursue diligently all significant issues and leads discovered that are determined relevant to the investigation by the investigator(s), including any evidence of additional instances of possible research misconduct, and continue the investigation to completion; and
- (D) otherwise comply with the requirements for conducting an investigation in the federal regulations that may apply based upon the funding source for the research.

#### **15.04.08 REQUIREMENTS FOR FINDINGS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT**

A finding of research misconduct under this policy requires that:

- (A) there is a significant departure from accepted practices of the relevant research community; and
- (B) the misconduct was committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly; and
- (C) the allegation of misconduct is proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

#### **15.04.09 INVESTIGATION REPORT**

The Investigator(s) shall prepare the draft and final institutional investigation reports in writing and provide the draft report for comment by respondent in a manner consistent with applicable federal regulations. The final investigation report shall:

- (A) describe the nature of the allegations of research misconduct;
- (B) describe and document the federal, state or private financial support, including, any grant numbers, grant applications, contracts, and publications listing federal, state or sponsor support;
- (C) describe the specific allegations of research misconduct considered in the investigation;
- (D) include the institutional policies and procedures under which the investigation was conducted;
- (E) identify and summarize the research records and evidence reviewed, and identify any evidence taken into custody, but not reviewed. The report should also describe any relevant records and evidence not taken into custody and explain why.
- (F) provide a finding as to whether research misconduct did or did not occur for each separate allegation of research misconduct identified during the investigation, and if misconduct was found,

1. identify it as falsification, fabrication, and/or plagiarism and whether it was intentional, knowing, or in reckless disregard,
2. summarize the facts and the analysis supporting the conclusion and consider the merits of any reasonable explanation by the respondent and any evidence that rebuts the respondent's explanations,
3. identify the specific federal, state or other grant support for the research;
4. identify any publications that need correction or retraction;
5. identify the person(s) responsible for the misconduct, and
6. list any current support or known applications or proposals for support that the respondent(s) has pending with federal, state or private agencies; and

(G) include and consider any comments made by the respondent and complainant on the draft investigation report.

Upon receipt of the report, the VPR shall determine whether the institution accepts the findings in the report. If any finding is not accepted, the finding and the reasons why it is not accepted shall be identified and included in a written report by the VPR.

The University shall maintain and provide to ORI upon request all relevant research records and records of the research misconduct proceeding, including results of all interviews and the transcripts or recordings of such interviews.

#### **15.04.10 CONFIDENTIALITY**

To the extent allowed by law, the University shall maintain the identity of respondents and complainants securely and confidentially and shall not disclose any identifying information, except to: (1) those who need to know in order to carry out a thorough, competent, objective and fair research misconduct proceeding; and (2) the Office of Research Integrity, if applicable, as it conducts its review of the research misconduct proceeding and any subsequent proceedings.

To the extent allowed by law, any information obtained during the research misconduct proceeding that might identify the subjects of research shall be maintained securely and confidentially and shall not be disclosed, except to those who need to know in order to carry out the research misconduct proceeding.

In conducting any inquiry or investigation into allegations of misconduct, the University shall protect, to the maximum extent possible under the law, the privacy of individuals who, in good faith, report apparent misconduct.

#### **15.04.11 RESTORING REPUTATIONS**

##### **Respondents**

MSU shall undertake all reasonable, practical, and appropriate efforts to protect and restore the reputation of any person alleged to have engaged in research misconduct, but against whom no finding of research misconduct was made, if that person or his/her legal counsel or other authorized representative requests that the University do so.

## **Complainants, Witnesses, and Committee Members**

The University shall undertake all reasonable and practical efforts to protect and restore the position and reputation of any good faith complainant, witness, or committee member and to counter potential or actual retaliation against those complainants, witnesses and committee members.

### **15.04.12 APPOINTMENT OF IMPARTIAL INQUIRER OR INVESTIGATOR**

The University shall take all reasonable steps to ensure an impartial and unbiased research misconduct proceeding to the maximum extent practicable. The University shall select those conducting the inquiry or investigation on the basis of scientific expertise that is pertinent to the matter and, prior to selection, the VPR or designee shall screen them for any unresolved personal, professional, or financial conflicts of interest with the respondent, complainant, potential witnesses, or others involved in the matter. Any such conflict that a reasonable person would consider to demonstrate potential bias shall disqualify the individual from selection.

A respondent may request disqualification of an inquirer or investigator upon filing of a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias, lack of independence, or other basis for disqualification. The affidavit must state the facts and the reasons for the belief that the inquirer or investigator should be disqualified and must be filed not less than five (5) days from the date the respondent receives notice of appointment of the inquirer or investigator. The VPR shall determine the matter and submit a written decision on the request for disqualification.

### **15.04.13 NOTICE TO RESPONDENT**

During the research misconduct proceeding, the University will provide the following notifications to all identified respondents:

- (A) **Initiation of Inquiry**  
Prior to or at the beginning of the inquiry, the VPR shall provide the respondent(s) with written notification of the inquiry and contemporaneously sequester all research records and other evidence needed to conduct the research misconduct proceeding. If the inquiry subsequently identifies additional respondents, they shall be promptly notified in writing.
- (B) **Comment on Inquiry Report**  
The inquirer shall provide the respondent(s) an opportunity to comment on the inquiry report in a timely fashion so that any comments can be attached to the report.
- (C) **Results of the Inquiry**  
The inquirer shall notify the respondent(s) of the results of the inquiry and attach to the notification copies of the inquiry report and these institutional policies and procedures for the handling of research misconduct allegations.
- (D) **Initiation of Investigation**  
Within a reasonable time after the VPR's determination that an investigation is warranted, but not later than thirty (30) calendar days after that determination, the VPR or designee shall notify the respondent(s) in writing of the allegations to be

- investigated. The VPR or designee shall give respondent(s) written notice of any new allegations within a reasonable time after determining to pursue allegations not addressed in the inquiry or in the initial notice of the investigation.
- (E) **Scheduling of Interview**  
The Investigator(s) will notify the respondent sufficiently in advance of the scheduling of his/her interview in the investigation so that the respondent may prepare for the interview and arrange for the attendance of legal counsel, if the respondent wishes.
  - (F) **Comment on Draft Investigation Report**  
The Investigator(s) shall give the respondent(s) a copy of the draft investigation report, and concurrently, a copy of, or supervised access to, the evidence on which the report is based and notify the respondent(s) that any comments must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the date on which he/she received the draft report. The Investigator(s) shall ensure that these comments are included and considered in the final investigation report.
  - (G) **Appeal**  
Respondent shall be advised of his/her right to appeal the findings of the investigative report. The respondent may appeal the findings of the Investigative Report to the VPR by filing a written appeal with the VPR within ten (10) days of receipt of the report. The grounds for appeal would be that the report is not supported by the evidence, the policies were misapplied to the evidence or that new evidence that was not available to the Investigator should be considered in reaching a final decision. The respondent shall be given timely notification of the appeal process. Any appeal process must be completed within one hundred twenty (120) days unless the institution has requested and received an extension from ORI. This 120 day deadline does not apply to institutional termination hearings that are conducted separately from the appeal process.

After appeal, any disciplinary action that might be proposed to be taken against a member of the bargaining unit as a result of the investigation will be subject to the requirements in ARTICLE 12 of this agreement.

#### **15.04.14 MAINTENANCE AND CUSTODY OF RESEARCH RECORDS AND EVIDENCE**

The University shall take the following specific steps to obtain, secure, and maintain the research records and evidence pertinent to the research misconduct proceeding:

- (A) Either before or when the VPR notifies the respondent of the allegation, the University shall promptly take all reasonable and practical steps to obtain custody of all research records and evidence needed to conduct the research misconduct proceeding, inventory those materials, and sequester them in a secure manner, except in those cases where the research records or evidence encompass scientific instruments shared by a number of users. Custody may be limited to copies of the data or evidence on such instruments, so long as those copies are substantially equivalent to the evidentiary value of the instruments.
- (B) Where appropriate, give the respondent copies of, or reasonable, supervised access to the research records.

- (C) Undertake all reasonable and practical efforts to take custody of additional research records and evidence discovered during the course of the research misconduct proceeding, including at the inquiry and investigation stages, or if new allegations arise, subject to the exception for scientific instruments in (A) above.
- (D) The University shall maintain all records of the research misconduct proceeding, as defined in 42 CFR Section 93.317(a), for seven (7) years after completion of the proceeding, or any ORI or HHS proceeding under Subparts 0 and E of 42 CFR Part 93 (copies attached), whichever is later, unless the University transferred custody of the records and evidence to HHS, or ORI has advised us that the University no longer needs to retain the records.

#### **15.04.15 INTERIM PROTECTIVE ACTIONS**

At any time during a research misconduct proceeding, the University shall take appropriate interim actions to protect public health, federal funds and equipment, and the integrity of the supported research process.

The necessary actions will vary according to the circumstances of each case, but examples of actions that may be necessary include delaying the publication of research results, providing for closer supervision of one or more researchers, requiring approvals for actions relating to the research that did not previously require approval, auditing pertinent records, or taking steps to contact other institutions that may be affected by an allegation of research misconduct.

#### **15.04.16 NOTIFICATION AND COORDINATION WITH ORI**

If the research misconduct allegations involve PHS research, the VPR or designee shall provide ORI with the written finding by the Vice President and a copy of the inquiry report containing the information required by 42 CFR Section 93.309(a).

Upon a request from ORI, the University shall promptly send: (1) a copy of institutional policies and procedures under which the inquiry was conducted; (2) the research records and evidence reviewed, transcripts or recordings of any interviews, and copies of all relevant documents; and (3) the charges for the investigation to consider.

The VPR or designee shall promptly provide to ORI after the investigation:

- (A) A copy of the investigation report, all attachments, and any appeals;
- (B) A statement of whether the institution found research misconduct and, if so, who committed it;
- (C) A statement of whether the institution accepts the findings in the investigation report; and
- (D) A description of any pending or completed administrative actions against the respondent.

At any time during a research misconduct proceeding, the University shall notify ORI immediately if there is reason to believe that any of the following conditions exist:

- (A) Health or safety of the public is at risk, including an immediate need to protect human or animal subjects.
- (B) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] resources or interests are threatened.
- (C) Research activities should be suspended.
- (D) There is a reasonable indication of violations of civil or criminal law.
- (E) Federal action is required to protect the interests of those involved in the research misconduct proceeding.
- (F) The University believes the research misconduct proceeding may be made public prematurely, so that HHS may take appropriate steps to safeguard evidence and protect the rights of those involved.
- (G) The University believes the research community or public should be informed.

The University will cooperate with and assist ORI and HHS, as needed, to carry out any administrative actions HHS may impose as a result of a final finding of research misconduct by HHS.

#### **15.04.17 COOPERATION WITH ORI**

The University shall cooperate fully and on a continuing basis with ORI during its oversight reviews of this institution and its research misconduct proceedings and during the process under which the respondent may contest ORI findings of research misconduct and proposed HHS administrative actions. This includes providing, as necessary to develop a complete record of relevant evidence, all witnesses, research records, and other evidence under university control or custody, or in the possession of, or accessible to, all persons that are subject to university authority.

When required by regulation, the VPR will report to ORI any proposed settlements, admissions of research misconduct, or institutional findings of misconduct that arise at any stage of a misconduct proceeding, including the allegation and inquiry stages.

#### **15.05 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Members of the bargaining unit are subject to the University conflict of interest policy found at <https://www.montana.edu/ric/conflict-interest/index.html>

##### **15.05.01 CONSENSUAL RELATIONS**

Since a consenting romantic or sexual relationship, especially one between a teacher and a student or a supervisor and an employee, may be unethical and unprofessional, faculty, administrators, supervisors, and others in positions of authority shall take care always to maintain the highest ethical and professional standards in their interactions with students and employees.

A consensual relationship in which one party is in a position to review the work of the other or influence the other person's opportunities is a conflict of interest and may provide grounds for a formal complaint and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

When a consensual relationship results in a conflict of interest, the faculty or staff member shall immediately disclose the conflict of interest to his or her supervisor. The supervisor and the employee shall take steps to ensure that the conflict of interest is eliminated.

## **ARTICLE 16: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

### **16.01 COURSE MATERIALS**

Educational materials created for classroom and learning programs, including electronic media, such as syllabi, assignments, and tests, shall remain the property of the author or creator. Exceptions are: (1) those cases in which the production of such materials is a part of a sponsored program and 2) those cases in which substantial University resources were used in creating educational materials.

“Substantial University resources” includes but is not limited to provision of staff time, equipment, funds, release time from assigned duties or an allocation of resources not normally available to faculty. Academic year salaries, office, usual library resources, usual secretarial and administrative staff resources or usual computer equipment, among other things, are not regarded as constituting “substantial use of University resources.”

The University makes no claim to copyright ownership for noncommissioned courseware initiated and completed by University-employed authors, but, for works within the scope of the author’s University employment, will claim the royalty-free nonexclusive right to use such courseware in University programs.

### **16.02 ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS**

Any electronic course materials created or developed by faculty with the use of substantial University resources shall be considered the property of the Montana University System.

This policy applies to electronic course material whether or not it was, is or may be eligible for copyright or patent. However, faculty who develop electronic course material that is considered property of the University shall assist the University to secure and protect a patent or copyright on the material if such protection is sought by the University.

The mere communication or preservation of traditional classroom or course material in an electronic medium does not bring that material within the ambit of this policy. Rather, this policy is intended to cover material created for or designed to be used in conjunction with a course, or a part thereof, delivered by means other than personal, face-to-face interaction between the instructor and the student.

#### **16.02.01 DIVISION OF INCOME**

Generally, any net income derived from University owned electronic course materials shall be divided, 50 percent to the author(s) and 50 percent to the University. Net income, for the purposes of this policy, means gross income minus costs of development and promotion, realized from the sale or licensing of the electronic course material.

#### **16.02.02 VARIANCE BY CONTRACT**

The President may approve a contract that either reduces the University's ownership rights or reduces the University's share of net income if, in the President's judgment, the contract is in the best interests of the University. If the University's ownership rights are reduced or the University's share of net income is reduced to below 50%, the President shall inform the commissioner of the contract and shall indicate the reason for approving it.

#### **16.02.03 RELINQUISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY RIGHTS**

The University may for fair value and upon the approval of the President, relinquish its rights to electronic course material to the author(s) or any other person or entity. Such a right may be relinquished for no consideration only if the President concludes that there is not a likelihood of the campus benefiting from the retention of the right in question.

Any agreement relinquishing such rights shall retain for the University a perpetual, royalty free right to use, reproduce, and revise the material without restriction for the University's own educational or research purposes, unless the President concludes that retention of such rights is not in the campus' best interests and documents that conclusion in writing.

#### **16.02.04 LIMITATION ON USE OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY**

Faculty who create or develop the electronic course material subject to Section XXX may not use the material in conjunction with teaching conducted on behalf of any entity other than for departments of the Montana University System unless prior permission is granted in writing by the President or the Commissioner of Higher Education, which permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

This limitation applies to the specific electronic format of the course and does not limit the faculty's right to use facts, theories, opinions or other items of substantive course content in another setting.

### **16.03 COPYRIGHT**

- (A) Works which are produced by a faculty member in connection with an approved and sponsored research project are treated in accordance with the agreement negotiated with the sponsor. In the absence of such agreement or to the extent such an agreement does not fully address ownership of works produced, such works shall be treated in accordance with 13.03 (B) or (C).
- (B) When a faculty member is:
  1. assigned work or responsibilities for the specific purpose of developing computer programs, visual aids, manuals, public relations material, printed or recorded copyrightable works, or
  2. assigned work or responsibilities, or uses University facilities, equipment, and/or assigned time, for the purposes of developing computer programs, or other electronic/digital copyrightable works,

the works produced pursuant thereto and all royalties therefrom shall be the property of the University. Written assignment of the copyright shall be indicated either on the

- individual employment contract or in a separate document countersigned by the employee. Should the University and the faculty member agree to a division of royalties, such division must be included in the contract or in a separate document countersigned by the faculty member. If the campus does not wish to copyright the work, the employee may obtain a written release from the President and may then copyright the work in his/her own name. Upon written request for release by the faculty member, the campus will respond within thirty (30) days.
- (C) When a faculty member develops copyrightable works other than those defined in paragraphs A or B above, he/she shall have sole right of ownership and disposition of such works. When such works are produced, developed or authored through the use or with the aid of campus facilities, personnel or other resources, the campus must be reimbursed for the fair market value of the use of any such facilities, personnel or resources, except those considered part of the normal academic environment including library facilities. Manuscripts or works of art designed for publication in media where no remuneration is given the author(s) are exempt from this reimbursement requirement.

## **16.04 PATENTS**

All employees in the bargaining unit shall adhere to the following procedures with respect to patentable inventions or discoveries. The purpose of these procedures is to define the relationships among the inventor, the University and outside sponsors of research. This policy shall not include copyrights.

### **16.04.01 DEFINITIONS**

- (A) “University Patent Management Officer” means the person, regardless of name or title, designated by the University President to carry out the duties created by this policy.
- (B) “System invention committee” means the ad hoc committee selected by the Commissioner as needed to carry out the duties created by this policy.

### **16.04.02 PROCEDURES**

All patentable inventions made by employees in the bargaining unit in connection with their assigned duties and/or by the use of the University’s facilities, shall be considered the property of the University under the following circumstances and to the following extent:

- (A) Wholly the property of the University if the person (or persons) responsible for the invention was employed by the University specifically for that purpose.
- (B) To the extent specified in the contract of employment or separate agreement between the University and employee relating to a specific work assignment.
- (C) To the extent recommended by the University Patent Management Officer and approved by the President if research or endeavors directly resulting in the discovery or development of the invention or marketable product involved use of University time, materials, property, or facilities. For the purposes of this paragraph, University time, materials, property or facilities includes time, material, property or facilities

paid from funds administered by the University including funds from sponsored research and federal and state grants or contracts. Provision of normal academic environment, including library facilities, does not constitute grounds for equity by the University in a discovery or invention.

Under all other circumstances individual employees are free to secure, under the patent laws of the United States, the exclusive right to their inventions if not owned by the University.

#### **16.04.03 INVENTORS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

Employees in the bargaining unit retain the right and responsibility for recognizing in their work inventions that may reasonably be marketable; and in every case, complete freedom of publication in both time and scope shall be maintained, unless agreements with outside sponsors provide otherwise as indicated below. Investigators will participate in work under such outside agreements only after they have informed themselves of such provisions and have accepted these provisions.

Any employee to whom the conditions set forth in Section 16.04.02 above applies who, either alone or in association with others, makes an invention shall promptly disclose the invention in writing to the University Patent Management Officer in a format acceptable to the University. And as to any such invention that vests with the University, the employee shall promptly execute all contracts, agreements, waivers or other legal documents necessary to vest all rights to the invention in the University and to facilitate protection, licensing and development of the invention. .

With the exception of those inventions developed under agreements with outside sponsors, the patent management officer or committee shall inform the inventor(s) in writing whether it plans to secure the patent or release the discovery to the inventor(s) within eighteen (18) months of submission of an invention disclosure. In the case of the release of the invention or in case of failure by the patent management officer to communicate in writing within eighteen (18) months, the inventor(s) is free to secure the patent, pay all fees, and receive all benefits therefrom.

#### **16.04.04 SUBMISSION TO PATENT MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

(A) Invention Outside the University.

If an invention is made and/or developed without University support of a significant degree, all rights remain with the inventor. Such inventions may be voluntarily submitted for consideration by the University, but the inventor is under no obligation to do so. Provision of a salary or desk to an inventor by the University does not, in itself, constitute significant support. However, any invention by an employee related to an area in which he or she participates in research under University auspices must be reported to the University so that the question of whether the University has provided sufficient support can be decided by the patent management officer. This decision may be appealed to the system invention committee.

(B) Invention With University Support.

If an invention is made and/or developed with University support of a significant

degree in time, money, materials, or facilities, the inventor must submit a full disclosure of the invention to the Patent Management Officer. Additionally, a copy of any manuscript submitted for publication shall simultaneously be submitted to the patent management officer, if the author considers that it may contain marketable inventions. The patent management officer may advise, but not require, deferral of publication in order to protect the patent rights of the University and the inventor.

#### **16.04.05 PROSECUTION OF PATENTS**

(C) Time Limits

If the University deems that a patent should be prosecuted, the prosecution shall be carried out diligently and without expense of any kind to the inventor. The parties to this agreement recognize the need to file the patent application and develop the patent as fast as possible. The time limits expressed herein represent the maximum time allowed, but every effort should be made to complete the process faster than the time limits specified.

(D) The inventor must assign to the University any interest in the patent equivalent to the property interest which the Patent Management Officer determines to belong to the University. The preliminary patent search must be started within nine (9) months from the date the matter is presented to the University or the University forfeits all right to the invention. If no patent application is filed within a total elapsed time of eighteen (18) months following disclosure, all patent rights revert to the inventor(s) unless other agreement is executed between the inventor(s) and the unit.

(E) Options Available to the University.

The inventor has an obligation to offer the University the opportunity to develop the invention for commercial use if the invention was made under University auspices.

The University may:

1. Elect to acquire title to the invention by assignment and in this case will undertake (unless inappropriate) the timely filing of patent applications, patent prosecution development, and marketing of the invention and shall bear all related costs. If the University desires to accept such an assignment after competent peer review, the inventor shall be obligated to make such an assignment. The inventor shall, in this instance, receive on an annual basis, 50 percent of all net income, defined as gross royalties or other payments, including any recovery of damages obtained by the University, but less external costs incurred by the University in obtaining and protecting the patent rights and less any direct costs of development; or
2. Cause the invention to be assigned to some patent management organization, such as research corporation or the University's research foundation if one exists. The domestic patent rights, foreign patent rights, or both, may be assigned to the patent management organization. The inventor shall receive on an annual basis 50 percent of all net royalties and other income received by the University from the patent management organization; or
3. Decline to accept any rights to the invention by assignment or otherwise, in which case all rights
4. Revert to the inventor, unless otherwise specified in a sponsored research agreement. If a dispute arises concerning the origin of an invention or patentable

discovery or any aspect of patent policy, the dispute shall be presented to the MUS invention committee for final disposition.

(F) **Invention Developed Under Agreement with Outside Sponsor.**

If the invention was made or developed under an agreement with an outside sponsor, the rights with respect to the invention shall be governed by provisions of that agreement. If not provided otherwise by the sponsoring agreement, the inventor's share of royalty or other income received from an outside sponsor shall be limited to the share he/she would have received had the University supported the research entirely. If the sponsor determines that invention rights are left with the department, the University may elect to pursue one of the three options listed in Section 16.04.05 unless state or federal law requires otherwise.

**16.04.06 DISTRIBUTION OF UNIVERSITY-RETAINED INVENTION-RELATED INCOME**

In order to provide invention incentive and capability to University personnel, the University's share of invention income will be distributed as follows:

Of the University-retained share of net royalty or other income for any given invention, defined as gross receipts, less external expenditures for that invention and less the inventor's personal share two-thirds of the first \$30,000 per year, one-half of the next \$30,000 per year and one-third of the remainder will be designated through the University budget or financial office to support the work of the inventor while employed by the University and/or to promote discoveries at the University.

The rest will be distributed to a designated fund and will be used to support and expand research at the University. Such distribution to support the inventor's work, derived from any given invention, will terminate after eight (8) years from the first sale of products embodying that invention, and any earned monies after this date will go to a designated fund.

**16.04.07 DEVELOPMENT OF INVENTIONS**

If the inventor becomes dissatisfied with the development of the invention as carried out by the University, or with the University's delay in reaching a decision, an appeal may be made to the system invention committee, in which the inventor may urge specific changes in the proposed course of action undertaken by the unit, or if the University has been assigned rights to the invention, may ask that the invention rights be reassigned to a patent management organization such as research corporation or all rights be reserved to the inventor.

If after a period of three (3) years from the acquisition of the issued patent by the University the invention has not been marketed, all rights revert to the inventor, unless an agreement with any outside sponsor precludes such reversion.

## **ARTICLE 17: STUDENT ACADEMIC GRIEVANCES**

Students who disagree with an academic decision made by an instructor or administrator, including the assignment of grades or decisions about program or degree requirements or eligibility, needs to follow the process outlined in Section 500 of the Student Conduct policies at [http://www.montana.edu/policy/student\\_conduct/#academicgrievances](http://www.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/#academicgrievances).