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### MSU initiates student health plan

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

MSU INITIATES STUDENT HEALTH PLAN

ADVANCE--A new Health, Medical Services and Hospitalization plan - comparable to those in effect in many major industries - was announced Saturday for Montana State University students by President Carl McFarland. The plan will go into effect at the beginning of the coming autumn quarter and will be financed through a \$10-per-quarter student health fee. The health fee increase, from \$5 to \$10, was approved recently by the State Board of Education.

The plan is made possible by a cooperative arrangement between the University and the Western Montana Medical Society and utilizes the staff and facilities of the University Health Center as well as those of Missoula hospitals. Under it students will receive (a) medical treatment and care with exclusions only on cosmetic surgery, care of non-functional congenital defects and obstetrical care; (b) unlimited hospitalization in the campus health center and allowances of \$13 per day (double room rate) for 10 days plus \$100 for extra expenses when off-campus hospitalization is necessary; (c) annual physical examinations with followup examinations to detect conditions needing treatment, and referrals, if necessary, to specialists; and (d) a free choice by the student of Missoula doctors.

Injuries sustained in intercollegiate sports are not included in the new health plan. These are covered by insurance.

Dental examinations and visual tests will be included in the physical examination program. However, the plan does not encompass dental care except when such care is necessitated by injury to teeth in University required or approved activity. Students having uncorrected visual defects will be referred to an ophthalmologist for a refraction, the cost of which will be borne equally by the student and the health

(more)

program. The student will defray the cost of glasses.

"The need for adequate health plans encompassing thorough and continuing physical examinations, medical and hospital care has been recognized in colleges and universities for many years," President McFarland said. "While at least one other university has worked out a comparable one to this, none has had as we do the cooperation of the entire medical fraternity of its community.

"The plan basically is designed to prevent large and unforeseen medical and hospital bills from financially inconveniencing our students or their parents or interrupting or ending the students' university careers."

The plan replaces one that has been in effect for many years which gave limited infirmary care for minor ailments, with the student responsible for payments of major medical and hospital bills.

"Our new plan has been under consideration for two or more years," Andrew C. Cogswell, dean of students, said. "The essentials of the plan and the proposed cost per student were worked out last spring and endorsed by the student Central Board. It's a great step forward and solves a problem that has plagued us for many years."

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