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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
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April 8, 1994

ACCREDITATION TEAM TO VISIT UM APRIL 12-13

MISSOULA --

A three-member team from the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges will visit The University of Montana Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12-13, to review the University's progress in meeting concerns raised five years ago during its last accreditation report.

The NASC team will meet with administrators, faculty and students to gather information that will supplement an interim accreditation report prepared by the University, UM Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Kindrick said.

Accreditation reviews are routinely conducted every 10 years, Kindrick said, and UM's last full review took place in 1989. At that time, he said, questions were raised in three general areas -- state financing, graduate education and research, and student affairs -- and the NASC decided to conduct an interim review in five years to assess UM's progress in meeting those concerns.

The University has prepared an interim accreditation report to detail the advances made since 1989, and Kindrick said that progress is substantial.

"There are some things that we still have to work on, and the whole matter of state financing continues to be a challenge," Kindrick said. "But I find it quite remarkable that the institution has progressed in the many ways that it has. There are a number of areas where the University has really moved forward quite well."

Areas of progress include increases in faculty salaries, significant improvements in campus

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computer technology and a new state tuition indexing plan, he said.

Copies of UM's Northwest Interim Accreditation Report are available for public review at the Mansfield Library's reserve book desk.

After its campus visit the accreditation team will compile a report for presentation to the NASC's Commission on Colleges. The commission will then determine whether further review or action is needed before UM's next regularly scheduled accreditation report in 1999.

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