UM NAMES NEW UNIVERSITY CENTER DIRECTOR

MISSOULA –

A recent doctoral graduate from Pennsylvania has been hired to manage the student union at The University of Montana—Missoula.

Gary R. Ratcliff will assume the duties of University Center director in mid-July, shortly after completing his doctorate in higher education at Pennsylvania State University. Ratcliff was chosen from a national field of 40 applicants. He will succeed Kay Cotton, who is retiring at the end of June.

Ratcliff will oversee a $2 million budget and operation of the UC, which houses student government and organizations, extensive dining and catering services, the campus bookstore, various retail services, meeting rooms and a special events center. More than 6,200 meetings and events are scheduled annually in the UC, with attendance totaling more than 430,000.

While at Penn State, Ratcliff served as graduate assistant for the executive director of university relations and graduate assistant for the director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education. From 1986 to 1992 he served as director of student activities, associate director of the student union and director of public information at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colo.

Ratcliff holds a master's degree in college student personnel and a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Maryland in College Park.

"We were just real impressed with his educational background and experience, and the enthusiasm he will bring to this position," said Jeanne Sinz, director of UM's Office of Career Services and chair of the search committee.

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