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Another semester, another record enrollment for UM

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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 20, 2004

Contact: President George Dennison, (406) 243-2311; Registrar Phil Bain, (406) 243-2412.

ANOTHER SEMESTER, ANOTHER RECORD ENROLLMENT FOR UM

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana once again shattered all spring semester enrollment records with a 2.9 percent increase in the number of students attending the Missoula campus for the second half of the 2003-04 academic year.

A total of 12,998 students are enrolled in classes, an increase of 372 over the 2003 spring semester headcount of 12,626.

In addition, full-time equivalents (FTE) rose 1.6 percent for a total of 11,072 this year, compared with last spring's 10,897. An FTE represents 15 undergraduate or 12 graduate semester credits.

The spring record breaker comes on the tail of an all-time high enrollment of 13,352 students during fall semester 2003. Spring semester headcount traditionally is lower than in the fall.

Registrar Phil Bain said the increases this semester are scattered throughout all areas of campus, with the largest jump at the doctoral level.

For UM President George Dennison, that is good news.

“We planned for and welcome the increase in enrollment,” Dennison said. “I find it especially satisfying that we achieved the institutional goal of attracting and retaining more

-more-

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doctoral students. So long as we meet the needs of the students who enroll, I think we can continue to achieve our enrollment goals.”

The number of Montana residents attending UM increased by 366 this semester over last year, and the number of students from other states participating in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program increased by 145. While the overall enrollment picture is encouraging, Dennison expressed concern about a decrease of 139 in the number of nonresident students.

“Nonresident enrollments have declined over the last few years, and we had projected a continuance of this trend because of the numbers for fall semester 2003,” Dennison said. “Our analysis suggest that the state of the economy exerted a considerable impact during this period. As the economic picture brightens, we have initiated new recruitment efforts for next year that rest solidly on the analyses we have done of potential student markets.”

In addition, Dennison said, “We will implement fully the plan to maintain and enhance the quality and responsiveness of our programs.”

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