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# 302 nonacademic employees at UM favor proposed statewide salary plan

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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "302 nonacademic employees at UM favor proposed statewide salary plan" (1975). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present.* 23844.

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302 NONACADEMIC EMPLOYEES AT UM FAVOR PROPOSED STATEWIDE SALARY PLAN

MISSOULA--

By a vote of 302 to 129--a margin of 173, University of Montana nonacademic employees who participated in a recent poll voted in favor of the proposed Montana Salary Schedule under the Statewide Classification Plan for state employees, according to Nancy L. Rockwell, administrative assistant in the UM School of Forestry, who is chairwoman of the UM Staff Senate Budget and Policy Committee.

Ms. Rockwell announced the results of the poll Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the monthly meeting of the UM Staff Senate.

The UM Staff Senate recently submitted the salary-schedule question--"Do you favor the Montana Salary Schedule under the Statewide Classification Plan?"--to the 645 nonacademic employees it represents, and a total of 431 employees responded. The 302 employees who favor the salary schedule represent 70 percent of those who voted.

The Statewide Classification Plan was authorized under SB 411 during the 1974

Session of the State Legislature. A modified salary schedule under the plan has been

proposed by the Personnel Division of the Montana Department of Administration. If the

proposed salary schedule, which involves a uniform system of classifying state employees

by their various jobs, is approved by the 1975 State Legislature, then the salary schedule

will be effective retroactively to Jan. 1. 1975, through June 30 of this year.

The salary schedule would provide 9.7 percent pay differentials between 25 pay grades vertically and 4.75 percent pay differentials between five of eight steps horizontally, with 3 percent, four-year longevity increments in steps six, seven and eight.

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Commenting on the 129 nonacademic employees who opposed the salary schedule in the recent poll, Ms. Rockwell said: "The basic concern of those opposing the salary schedule is that longevity isn't given enough consideration in determining salary classification for various nonacademic employees at the University."

Because 70 percent of the 431 nonacademic employees who voted in the UM poll responded favorably to the proposed salary schedule, Ms. Rockwell said the UM Staff Senate will solicit the help of UM President Richard C. Bowers, the Board of Regents of Higher Education and the Missoula delegates to the 1975 State Legislature for legislative support of the salary schedule.

The UM Staff Senate, composed of 16 staff members, was established July 1, 1974.