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Citizens plan study of reform for Montana, Idaho legislatures

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Seasoned legislators and interested citizens from Montana and Idaho will gather Dec. 1-4 in Missoula to scrutinize legislative reform and reorganization in the two states.

The Montana-Idaho Assembly on State Legislatures will be hosted by the University of Montana, according to Robert T. Pantzer, UM acting president. The Assembly is expected to draw approximately 30 community leaders from each of the two states.

Pantzer said the Assembly, funded by a Hill Family Foundation grant to the American Assembly at Columbia University and to the University of Montana Foundation, will be directed by Dr. Ellis Waldron, UM professor of political science, and Dr. Boyd A. Martin, Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences, University of Idaho in Moscow. Dr. Martin will serve as associate director.

The Missoula Assembly will be one of the first regional meetings following a national Assembly held last spring in New York City.

Dr. Waldron said the Assembly is called in the belief thoughtful citizens want to encourage a more modern and effective functioning of their state legislature.

Professor Sidney Duncombe, director of the Bureau of Public Affairs Research at UI, is preparing the Idaho legislative materials for the Assembly, and Dr. Waldron, also director of the UM Bureau of Government Research, is preparing materials on the Montana legislature.