Diehl directs fiscal affairs study for state

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations
MISSOULA, Mont.--

Dr. William D. Diehl has resigned his position as director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of Montana to become director of the Interim Fiscal Affairs Study for the State of Montana.

In his new position the 31-year-old Helena native will continue to operate out of his office on the Missoula campus. He also will retain his faculty status as associate professor of business administration at the University.

Replacing Dr. Diehl as BBER director is Dr. Rudyard B. Goode, dean of the UM School of Business Administration. Dr. Goode also will continue as business administration dean at the University.

This spring the State Legislature and Gov. Forrest H. Anderson okayed use of $78,200 from the state's general fund by the BBER to carry out the fiscal affairs study during the 1969-71 biennium beginning July 1. Authorization is under House Bill No. 8 of the extraordinary legislative session.

Concerning appointment of Dr. Diehl as fiscal affairs study director, UM President Robert T. Pantzer said, "We are pleased that Dr. Diehl has accepted the directorship of the Interim Fiscal Affairs Study. This is a very significant task and one which will be of great value to various communities and to the entire State of Montana in years to come."

Six staff associates and a secretary will be provided by the University of Montana for the two-year study.

Dr. Diehl said the purpose of the fiscal affairs study is to investigate the present state tax system to find out if the system is equitable and to study ways in which the state finances the services it provides.
Involved in the study are business taxation, property taxation and potential new sources of revenue for state and local governments.

"The study will develop useful data and analytical material," Dr. Diehl said, "upon which legislators, the governor and other political leaders can base their fiscal planning."

Concerning his resignation as BBER director, Dr. Diehl said, "I wish to devote full time to the Interim Fiscal Affairs Study because fiscal problems of state and local governments in Montana are difficult and subject to widespread misconception and misinstruction. I feel it is necessary for me to devote full time to development of facts, alternatives and approaches to the solution of Montana's fiscal problems."

During the fiscal affairs study, Dr. Diehl will work directly with the Legislative Interim Fiscal Affairs Committee which was set up by the 1969 State Legislature.


Dr. Diehl has had a long-standing interest in state fiscal policies since 1964, when he became director of research for the State Board of Equalization. His studies with the board include a number involving human resources, taxation and an analysis of economic growth in Montana.

Dr. Diehl joined the UM faculty in 1967 as an associate professor of business administration and BBER director. He is a 1955 graduate of Helena High School and was awarded his bachelor's degree at Montana State University, Bozeman, in 1959. He received his master's degree and doctorate at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, in 1962 and 1964, respectively.