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**Senate Review and Recommendation 2017**Flathead Lake Biological Station

## Review and Approval Process

The Faculty Senate through its Chair, who in turn shall distribute it to ECOS and other committees, and approve or disapprove the proposal by a vote of the Senate.

## Review in terms of Scope as stated in UM Policy 310:

To provide instruction, scholarship or service to the university, state, region or world by:

1. Focusing attention on an area of strength and/or addressing a critical issue; or
2. Facilitating collaborative, multi-disciplinary endeavors to combine resources from several programs or institutions to address issues of common interest.

**The Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) is a remote field research and education center located on Flathead Lake. Faculty at FLBS examine questions related to aquatic ecology and educate students through summer field-based courses and graduate student mentorship.**

## Review in terms of the University’s mission.

The University of Montana pursues academic excellence as demonstrated by the quality of curriculum and instruction, student performance, and faculty professional accomplishments. The University accomplishes this mission, in part, by providing unique educational experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training with international and interdisciplinary emphases. The University also educates competent and humane professionals and informed, ethical, and engaged citizens of local and global communities; and provides basic and applied research, technology transfer, cultural outreach, and service benefiting the local community, region, State, nation and the world.

## Comments:

The Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) provides both teaching and research opportunities in an incredible field setting. FLBS has a long history as an arm of UM. Approximately 116 students are expected to be enrolled in FLBS courses for the summer of 2017. FLBS faculty also mentor 5 graduate students and 2 post-doctoral researchers.

## Does ECOS/Faculty Senate consider this center controversial? No

## Is the relationship with academic units beneficial?

FLBS provides summer field courses that fill major requirements in Wildlife Biology and other degrees. Faculty at FLBS participate in academic programs at the UM Missoula campus as well.

## Is the program revenue neutral or does it consume more resources than it generates? If so, is the use of University resources justified?

FLBS receives state funds which account for about 1/3 of the $2.8M budget. Funds for FLBS are used for salaries of faculty and staff and operation of the FLBS campus. FLBS generates tuition funds through summer course offerings. Although FLBS is not revenue neutral, the use of University resources seems to be justified.

## Is the entity making progress toward objectives?

Yes, FLBS hired a new Director and is in the process of hiring 2 new faculty. The Director is working to increase integration between FLBS and the main campus including new approaches to having faculty teach on the main campus and remotely.

## Recommendation:

##  Continue

## Justification:

FLBS provides a unique research and teaching opportunity for UM. The facilities at the FLBS campus represent an incredible value for UM.