Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form.

I SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

Department / Program: School of Journalism
Summary:

The School of Journalism works hard to ensure that its program and curriculum keep pace with revolutionary changes that are blurring distinctions among traditional and new media. This proposal to merge our existing bachelor’s degrees in Journalism and Radio-Television and merge our two departments (Print/Photo and Radio-Television) is a crucial step toward that effort.

Today’s journalist rarely works for only broadcast or only print media. Instead, they perform as writers, editors, videographers, photographers, designers, and producers of audio and video content whose work first appears on social media, websites and mobile platforms. Our curriculum already reflects that convergence in many ways, but the school’s bachelor’s degrees and two-departmental structure do not.

This change to a single bachelor’s degree and a single administrative unit without departments advances a strategic effort begun in 2010-2011 academic year, when the School of Journalism eliminated its photo, print and broadcast journalism options in favor of curriculum that introduces all freshmen and sophomores to the reality of today’s multi-format, multi-platform news media and offers juniors and seniors choices from a menu of electives and capstone courses so they can tailor their education to the demands of ever-changing job market.

Our current administrative structure features a Print and Photo Department and a Radio-Television Department. Those distinctions no longer reflect the realities of our profession or of the school’s curriculum and faculty. Our last three faculty hires have experience in both new and traditional media, and one has worked both as a broadcast producer and as a reporter and editor for print and online media. New media techniques and thinking are a part of every course in our curriculum. Given our size, a consolidation of our departments into a single unit under the School of Journalism, comprising all faculty members makes greater sense, both programmatically and economically, than maintaining several small departments, each with a separate chair and unit standards. Under the dean, two collaborating directors would administer the program day-to-day, with one focusing on scheduling and curriculum and the other responsible for student recruitment, retention and advising.

These changes will help us to align the School of Journalism more effectively with our ever-changing profession. Because our curriculum does not overlap with any other MUS program and because it will remain intact, the proposals pose no effect on other MUS or UM programs.

II PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

Requestor: Larry Abramson, Dean
Signature _______________________________ Date 9/15/15

Phone / Email: x5250; larry.abramson@umontana.edu

Program Chair: Ray Ekness
Signature _______________________________ Date 9/15/15
Other affected Programs: NA

Signature __________________ Date __________
Signature __________________ Date __________
Signature __________________ Date __________
Signature __________________ Date __________
Signature __________________ Date __________

☐ Resources included in the proposal are sufficient to adequately support the new program’s library needs.

Initial Review in Provost’s Office:
Signature __________________ Date 9/32/15

III TYPE OF PROGRAM CHANGE

☐ Create new degree; add new major to existing degree
☐ Create minor or certificate where there is no major or option in a major
☐ Change name of degree (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
☑ Any other changes in governance and organization as described in BOR policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

IV PROPOSAL

See Level II Instructions

Attach the following completed forms
Board of Regents Item Template Form
Board of Regents Curriculum Proposal Form
Board of Regents Academic Request Form

V SUBMISSION

Submit the complete Level II proposal to the Provost’s Office for preliminary approval. After all signatures have been obtained, submit original, and an electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221, camie.foos@mso.umt.edu