




Policy Number: 100.1

Policy Title: Formulation and Issuance of College Policies and Procedures

Subject: Section 100 – Governance and Organization

Date Adopted: May 22, 2006

Date(s) Revised: September 17, 2012; July 24, 2017

Approved by: 

Jane G. Baker
Interim Dean/CEO
Helena College University of Montana

POLICY STATEMENT:

Helena College University of Montana employs a uniform, consistent approach and format to identify, develop, review/revise, approve, disseminate, and centrally maintain all official college policies. To be considered “official,” a college policy must proceed through the process and procedures that accompany this policy.

All Helena College policies shall adhere to and be consistent with relevant federal and state laws, rules, and regulations; with Board of Regents’ policies and procedures; and with The University of Montana’s policies and procedures.

PROCEDURES:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA:

For Helena College’s purposes, a policy must adhere to the following criteria:

- It is a governing principle that mandates or constrains actions.
- It has campus-wide application.
- It helps ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, enhances the college’s mission, promotes operational efficiencies, and/or reduces institutional risk.
- It changes infrequently and sets a course for the foreseeable future.
- It is broad enough to permit discretionary action in resolution of day-to-day situations yet specific enough to provide clear guidance.

STANDARD POLICY FORMAT:

To ensure consistency, a standard policy format (see pages 5 & 6 of this policy) shall be used for all official Helena College policies. The use of this standard policy format at all levels of the college will ensure the adoption of clear, concise policies and procedures. The first page of each policy will carry the college’s logo and the Dean/CEO’s signature to indicate its “official” status.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL SEQUENCE:

Step 1: Requests Submitted to Leadership Team for Proposed New or Amended Policies

Requests for a proposed new or amended policy shall be submitted in writing to the Leadership Team with an explanation of (a) why the need exists for the creation of a new policy; and/or (b) why the existing policy is inadequate and needs to be revised, amended, or repealed. If desired, an individual or group requesting a new policy may attach a draft of the proposed new policy and/or any written documentation supporting its creation. Similarly, an individual or group requesting a revision or amendment to an existing policy may attach a draft of the existing policy that incorporates the suggested changes and may also include any written documentation supporting those changes. Reasons for suggesting a proposed new or amended policy may include, but are not limited to, identification of issues by employees, results of a legal review, or compliance with new or amended legislation.

Step 2: Research and Analysis by Leadership Team

Once an issue has been identified for a proposed new or amended policy, and the Leadership Team believes the issue has merit, the Leadership Team shall research the issue to determine the feasibility of proceeding to the policy creation or policy amendment stage. The research should include a review of similar policies at other Montana University System campuses, along with a review of State of Montana, Board of Regents, and The University of Montana policies, rules, and regulations. Based upon the results of the research, the Leadership Team shall develop an analysis and initial recommendation for the proposed new or amended policy.

Step 3: Results of Research and Analysis Submitted to College Council

The Leadership Team shall provide the results of its analysis and its initial policy recommendation to the College Council for the group’s input.

Step 4: Preparation of First Draft of Proposed New or Amended Policy

Following input from the College Council, the Office of the Dean/CEO will place the proposed new or amended policy and applicable procedures into the standard policy format used for all official Helena College policies (see pages 5 & 6 of this policy).

Step 5: First Draft of Proposed New or Amended Policy Submitted to Leadership Team and College Council

The first draft of the proposed new or amended policy shall be submitted simultaneously to the Leadership Team and the College Council for review. Revisions suggested by these two groups will be incorporated into the second draft of the proposed new or amended policy by the Office of the Dean/CEO.

Step 6: Preparation and Posting of Second Draft of Proposed New or Amended Policy

The second draft of the proposed new or amended policy shall be posted on Helena College's web site for 15 working days to provide advance notice and seek campus-wide input. An email will be sent to all Helena College employees to direct them to this version of the new or amended policy. Campus-wide revisions will be incorporated into the second draft by the Office of the Dean/CEO and routed back through the Leadership Team and College Council prior to preparation of the final proposed new or amended policy.

Step 7: Final Posting of New or Amended Policy

An email shall be sent to all Helena College employees to direct them to the proposed final version of the new or amended policy, which will be posted on the college's web site for five working days for final review. Any revisions suggested at this point shall be made at the discretion of the Dean/CEO with input, if needed, from the Leadership Team and/or College Council.

Step 8: Final Approval of New or Amended Policy

The final version of the new or amended policy shall be printed with Helena College's logo and signed by the Dean/CEO. The Office of the Dean/CEO will make a campus-wide announcement via email of the electronic availability of the policy and accompanying procedures. All policies that reach this stage will be considered "official" and maintained in a central repository as part of the Helena College Policies & Procedures Manual. To provide consistency and to avoid outdated or multiple versions of policies on other web pages, official campus policies shall be posted on Helena College's web site in one location only by the Office of the Dean/CEO. Links to this centralized location may be used as needed on other pages within the web site.

Step 9: Periodic Policy Evaluation

All campus policies shall be reviewed on a three-year rotation to assess the need for amendment or repeal.

POLICIES VERSUS PROCEDURES:

For those who merely need to know Helena College's policy on a given subject, the "Policy Statement" included on the first page of each policy should suffice. However, the official versions of the college's policies shall also include, as applicable, a set of accompanying operating procedures that support the policy and provide guidelines for its implementation.

INTERIM POLICIES:

The Dean/CEO is empowered to issue interim policies in situations where a college policy must be established within a time frame too brief to permit completion of the process delineated in this policy. Each interim policy shall include only a "Policy Statement" and will automatically be rescinded within 90 days of its adoption unless action is taken to extend its interim status or begin the process to move it through the new policy development procedures outlined in this policy.

RESCINDING AN EXISTING POLICY:

Rescission of a Helena College Policy occurs when an active policy becomes obsolete or has been combined with another policy. Such policies shall be brought to the Leadership Team and College Council for discussion and recommendations. If rescission is recommended, an email shall be sent to all Helena College employees to inform them of the possible rescission of the policy following a comment period of five working days. At the conclusion of the comment period, determination of rescission shall be made at the discretion of the Dean/CEO with input, if needed, from the Leadership Team and/or College Council, and an email shall be sent to all Helena College employees to notify them of the determination.

STANDARD POLICY FORMAT



Policy Number:

Policy Title:

Subject: (choose one)

Section 100 – Governance and Organization

Section 200 – Academic Affairs

Section 300 – Student Affairs

Section 400 – Personnel

Section 500 – Financial Affairs

Section 600 – Physical Plant

Section 700 – Information Technology

Section 800 – Miscellaneous

Date Adopted:

Date(s) Revised:

Approved by:

Jane G. Baker
Interim Dean/CEO
Helena College University of Montana

POLICY STATEMENT:

PROCEDURES: