



September 20, 2024

Mr. Shawn Graham
Executive Director
Teacher's Retirement System
State of Montana
100 N. Park Avenue
Suite 110
Helena, MT 59620-0139

Re: Montana University System Retirement Program Supplemental Contributions

Dear Mr. Graham:

As required by MCA, Section 19-20-621, the purpose of this letter is to determine the financial position of the Montana University System Retirement Program (MUS-RP) and determine the supplemental contribution rate necessary to amortize the past service liability of the university members of the Montana Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) by July 1, 2033. It is our understanding that the contribution to TRS will not stop unless legislative action is taken. However, for the purposes of calculating the MUS-RP supplemental contribution, we have assumed the past service liability will be amortized over a closed 9 year period (until July 1, 2033).

The required supplemental contribution rate for the period beginning July 1, 2025 is 14.21% of Montana University System Retirement Plan member salaries. This represents an increase of 0.68% from the amount that was determined as of July 1, 2022 for the period beginning July 1, 2023. In general, the increase in the required contribution rate is primarily attributed to the failure to adopt prior recommended supplemental contribution increases. In order to maintain the current supplemental contribution rate of 4.72% the MUS would be required to contribute \$214.5 million. The summary of findings is attached to this letter.



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The assumptions and methods used in the calculations are the ones used in the July 1, 2024 actuarial valuation of the Montana Teacher's Retirement System.

The promised benefits of the System are included in the actuarially calculated contribution rates which are developed using the Entry Age Normal cost method. Market value of assets is used for actuarial valuation purposes. Gains and losses are reflected in the unfunded accrued liability that is being amortized by regular contributions of payroll determined as a percentage of payroll, on the assumption that payroll will increase by 3.25% annually. The assumptions recommended by the actuary and adopted by the Board are in the aggregate reasonably related to the experience under the Fund and to reasonable expectations of anticipated experience under the Fund.

The calculations assume the value of the GABA benefits for MUS members are not financed by the supplemental contributions made as a percent of member salaries but are instead financed by the TRS contribution rate.

In order to prepare the results in this report, we have utilized actuarial models that were developed to measure liabilities and develop actuarial costs. These models include tools that we have produced and tested, along with commercially available valuation software that we have reviewed to confirm the appropriateness and accuracy of the output. In utilizing these models, we develop and use input parameters and assumptions about future contingent events along with recognized actuarial approaches to develop the needed results.

Actuarial Standard of Practice Number 4 (ASOP 4) requires the disclosure of a reasonable actuarial determined contribution rate. In our professional judgment, the actuarial determined contribution rate determined in this report complies with the spirit of ASOP 4.

This is to certify that the independent consulting actuary is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and has experience in performing valuations for public retirement systems, that the valuation was prepared in accordance with principles of practice prescribed by the Actuarial Standards Board, and that the actuarial calculations were performed by qualified actuaries in accordance with accepted actuarial procedures, based on the current provisions of the retirement system and on actuarial assumptions that are internally consistent and reasonably based on the actual experience of the System.



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Future actuarial results may differ significantly from the current results presented in this letter due to such factors as the following: plan experience differing from that anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions; changes in economic or demographic assumptions; increases or decreases expected as part of the natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements (such as the end of an amortization period or additional cost or contribution requirements based on the plan's funded status); and changes in plan provisions or applicable law. Since the potential impact of such factors is outside the scope of a normal annual actuarial valuation, an analysis of the range of results is not presented herein.

Respectfully submit,

Todd Green, ASA, EA, FCA, MAAA
President

TBG



Montana University System

Retirement Program Supplemental Contributions

Summary of Findings

VALUATION DATE	<u>July 1, 2022</u>	<u>July 1, 2024</u>
Active members		
Number	181	197
Annual compensation	\$ 12,531,507	\$ 13,957,285
Retired members and beneficiaries		
Number	1,579	1,503
Annual allowances	\$ 52,525,914	\$ 52,282,719
Inactive Members		
Vested Terminated Members	45	46
Non-Vested Terminated Members	50	39
Assets		
Market value	\$ 161,303,044	\$ 139,428,293
Unfunded accrued liability	318,680,757	321,130,345
CONTRIBUTION NECESSARY TO AMORTIZE UNFUNDED LIABILITY		
Supplemental Contribution Rate*	13.53%	14.21%
Amortization Period (Years)	11	9
Current Statutory Supplemental Contribution Rate	4.72%	4.72%
Supplemental Contribution Rate Shortfall	8.81%	9.49%
Lump Sum Necessary to Maintain Current Statutory Supplemental Contribution Rate	\$207.6 Million	\$214.5 Million

* The 14.21% contribution rate as of July 1, 2024 would increase to 22.41% for MUS-RP members if the GABA were financed by the supplemental contributions.