

ITEM 143-1502-R0509

Authorization to Renovate and Design and Construct an Expansion to the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Building; Montana Tech of The University of Montana

THAT:

Consistent with the provision of MCA 18-2-102 and 20-25-302, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes Montana Tech of The University of Montana to renovate and expand the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Building located on its North campus in Butte. This authorization includes approval for Montana Tech to apply for and acquire an InterCap loan in the amount of \$3,000,000 with a 10-year payback period. A student fee will be used to repay the loan. The student fee will sunset after the 10-year period.

EXPLANATION:

The HPER Building is a two-story, brick veneer building constructed in 1980 and modified in 1985. This 29-year-old building consists of 86,957 gross square feet of classrooms, locker rooms, offices, shower rooms, exercise rooms, a gymnasium, and other recreational facilities including a swimming pool. This is the only recreational facility available for both North Campus and South Campus students, faculty and staff.

This request is to renovate 25,200 square feet of space to bring the facilities up to standards currently expected by students. The cost of this renovation is estimated to be \$2,000,000. In addition, an expansion of 7,000 square feet is requested at a cost of \$1,000,000. The new construction is slated to the west of the current cardio/weight rooms and expands both of these facilities plus adds two locker rooms and associated equipment.

JUSTIFICATION

Exercise, fitness and recreation are strong contributors to both good mental and physical health. Clearly, physical fitness is strongly supportive of learning. Without exception, we are seeing more and more students seeking exercise and physical fitness options on our campus.

Currently, Montana Tech's recreational facilities are in need of repair, upgrades, and expansion. Our students have expressed the following concerns relative to the current HPER complex: too small to accommodate the growing demand for its services from a student body of approximately 2,400 students; inadequate ventilation in the cardio and weight rooms; limited locker room space; lack of availability to students during events within the complex.

Simply put, students want a better, more modern, more welcoming recreational facility. This project will accommodate many of the issues raised by students and allow the campus to provide a greater experience for all users of the HPER complex.