

November 19-20,2015

INFORMATION ITEM

Living Learning Center, New Residential Hall Combined with Collaborative Academic Teaching, Learning, and Ancillary Space; Montana Tech of the University of Montana

THAT

Montana Tech is updating the Board on the status of Regent Item 151-1503-R0511 and the desire to expand the project. Montana Tech will seek approval to proceed with the project at a later date.

EXPLANATION

At the May 2011 Board of Regents meeting, authorization was granted to hire a consultant architect for planning a new Residence Hall on the Montana Tech campus (Item 151-1503-R0511). Supporting information was provided to the Board showing historical student enrollment increase over the last decade, and other student housing factors that demonstrated the need for this new facility. The State DOA Architecture & Engineering Division facilitated the selection of OZ Architects of Missoula as the planning and design Architect of record for this project.

Since the selection of OZ a great deal of work has been done by a wide range of stakeholders in the initial programming and planning of a new facility. This body of work strongly indicated that a different type of facility than just a residence hall would provide additional solutions to Tech's needs and serve the entire Tech community, as well as provide an enhanced living experience for Tech students. The concept of a Living Learning Center (LLC) that combines a new Residence Hall with collaborative and state of the art learning space, along with dining and conference ancillary space has overwhelmingly become the choice as the best design idea for a new facility on campus.

At the request of the Chancellor, The Montana Tech Foundation engaged the national university housing consultant firm, Brailsford & Dunlavey, to perform a very intensive study and analysis on a proposed LLC. This study, published in July 2015, identifies the need at Tech for increased residential housing and the additional needs that would be served by an LLC concept complex. Financial information and analysis, including an in-depth student housing market analysis in Butte, indicates high success for a phased Living Learning Center project. The first phase would be the residence hall portion for approximately 200 beds, with subsequent phases of the auxiliary portions following when private fundraising is completed. Financing of the project would be a combination of construction bonds paid for by housing fees charged to student residents and private monies for the auxiliary portion of the LLC. Tech is working with the University of Montana on bond financing. Significant progress has been made in raising private support with more pending.

Montana Tech will continue working with OZ architects on the programming and design of a phased Living Learning Center project. The intent will be to reach construction design documents for phase one for possible competitive bidding in the spring of 2016. This phase of the project is forecasted at \$15 million.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1 – Executive Summary of the Brailsford & Dunlavey Study