

November 21-22, 2019

**ITEM 185-1005-R1119**

**Request for Authorization for the Expenditure of University Funds to Hire a Consultant for a Student Life Master Planning process, University of Montana**

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**THAT**

The Board of Regents authorizes the University of Montana to expend university funds to hire a consultant team to undertake a new student-based campus master plan. Master planning is a comprehensive planning process that examines the needs and growth of the university, including academic facilities, student life, comprehensive transportation solutions, sustainability and energy use, athletics and recreation, outdoor and green space, deferred maintenance, historic preservation, and financial sustainability. The outcome of the process will be a plan that provides the physical spaces to support the future of the university and enhance UM's competitiveness. The new Student Life Master Plan will serve as the physical framework for the University's strategic framework and will guide the growth and development of campus for the next 10 years. The authorization is for an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

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**EXPLANATION**

Last September, the University of Montana obtained authorization (ITEM 184-1005-R0719) from the Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education to amend its bond indenture and execute other required documents in connection with the refunding and restructuring of existing debt, and new money borrowing.

This master planning effort will help inform and guide the University of Montana towards the goal of improving the student life experience at the University. The master plan will guide and prioritize future capital investments into the University's residential life, dining, recreational facilities and academic related projects that affect student recruitment and retention. The plan will also accommodate classroom renovations for active learning, address shortages in classrooms of specific sizes, shift the ratio of closed to open offices, and modernize student support to make the student the center of our focus.

The appointed consultant will help UM evaluate the current campus's strengths and opportunities and assist UM to create a student life master plan identifying potential future projects for campus development.

This request is intended for master planning only. If approved by the Board of Regents, the University intends to fund a first phase of construction project(s) to implement the student life master plan. The consultant will be expected to assist the university in developing the overall project budgets including construction costs, construction contingency, owner's contingency, furnishings, commissioning, design fees, internal fees, city permit fees and all ancillary costs including but not limited to document reproduction, geotechnical investigations, site surveys, testing, supervisor costs, etc.

While it is anticipated the appointed consultant will provide services for the entire project(s) through construction and project close-out, the campus will reserve the right to re-solicit for professional consultant services after the master planning phase.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Project description and budget