

May 20-21, 2020

**ITEM 188-2004-R0520**

**Request for Authorization to Design and Construct a Student Wellness Center; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Consistent with the provisions of MCA 2-17-105, 20-25-302 1(d) and 18-2-102 2(b) and BOR policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents authorizes MSU to expend up to \$60,000,000 to design and construct a comprehensive Student Wellness Center.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. In accordance with BOR Item 186-2007-C0120, Montana State University is continuing with planning, programming and design for the Student Wellness Center to replace facilities lost in March 2019 and to create new space for student health services
  2. In March of 2019, three gymnasiums and the university's natatorium were all damaged due to a historically high snow load. The gymnasiums were a complete loss and the roof and walls of the natatorium were significantly damaged. The State of Montana Risk Management and Tort Defense Division helped Montana State University through an extensive property insurance claim which covers the cost of replacing the lost space using current building codes and construction costs.
  3. Swingle Health Center, home to MSU's student health services, was constructed in 1957 when MSU's student enrollment was less than 3,600. With more than 16,000 students now enrolled, the facility is long past adequately serving the medical and mental health needs of MSU's students.
  4. The Student Wellness Center concept will provide students a new, holistic approach to student wellbeing that includes mental and physical health by combining a traditional fitness facility with a student health facility. The Student Wellness Center concept was developed with student input with more than 1,700 individual outreach contacts in the fall 2019 semester; more than 11,000 video views and 29,000 views on Instagram during the spring 2020 semester.
  5. The Student Wellness Center will include a variety of programmed spaces for students including space for Student Health, which encompasses Counseling and Psychological Services along with acute and primary care medical services, dental services, and other health services for all students including X-rays, a clinical lab for some of the most common medical tests and a pharmacy. The facility will also include an accessible pool, multi-activity courts (MAC), improved functional fitness studios, a rebuilt climbing wall, student study and collaboration areas and ancillary spaces to support students now and into the future.
  6. On April 14-15, 2020, during the Associated Students of Montana State University annual general election, the student body approved a \$58 per-semester student fee to pay for approximately one-third of the cost of the Wellness Center project. With 2,438 (16.3%) students voting on this ballot item, 66% voted yes and 34% voted no. Historical voter turnout has been less than 15%, so this year was better than average.
  7. Insurance proceeds will be used to pay for nearly two-thirds of this project. MSU intends to seek Board of Regents approval at a later date to issue facilities revenue bonds sometime prior to August 2021, pending market rates to secure the lowest financing costs possible for this important student project.
  8. The proposed project will be financed with insurance funds provided by State of Montana Risk Management and Tort Division and non-state funds including student fees. MSU and State LRBP funds will pay for non-auxiliary spaces within the facility.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Physical Plant B 1003.7