

May 20, 2020

**ITEM 188-2006-R0520**

**Request for Authorization to Increase a Building and Facilities Fee for the Student Wellness Center; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Consistent with BOR 940.3 – Mandatory Fees, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes Montana State University to increase a Building and Facilities Fee by \$58 per semester to provide partial funding for a new Student Wellness Center.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. In March 2019, a historic snow accumulation caused the roof collapse of the north and south gyms of the Marga Hosaeus Fitness Center and structurally damaged other areas of the facility. The University design team conducted outreach to students about their health, wellness and fitness goals as well as the facility features students would value to help achieve those goals. Students clearly expressed their desire to design and build to a holistic and integrated Student Wellness Center.
  2. Student Health Services, including Counseling and Psychological Services, are no longer able to operate cohesively in the Swingle Health Center, a structure built in 1957 when MSU's enrollment was 3,600 students. It was last renovated in the 1970s, when enrollment was approximately 10,000 students. Fall 2019 enrollment was more than 16,000 students. In both 2014 and in 2016, the ASMSU Senate passed resolutions of support for a new student health facility. More than 80 percent of all students utilize student health services during their time at MSU.
  3. MSU is requesting authorization to increase its Mandatory Building and Facilities Fees by \$58 per semester for a full-time, 12-credit student. The request is contingent upon BOR approval of the MSU Student Wellness Center construction project also submitted for consideration at the May 2020 Board meeting (BOR Item 188-2004-R0520).
  4. On April 14-15, 2020, ASMSU conducted its annual campus-wide elections. Students voted to approve a \$58 per semester fee to support the construction, operations and maintenance of a new Student Wellness Center. A total of 2,438 student votes were cast on the Student Wellness Center ballot with 66% of students (1,608) voting in favor ("YES") of the fee increase. Voter turnout was 16.3%, which is higher than average for student elections.
  5. MSU anticipates that funds to construct the facility, in addition to insurance proceeds, will be borrowed by issuing revenue bonds for a period of up to 25 years. Financing authority will be requested at a subsequent Board of Regents meeting.
  6. MSU anticipates the fee increase will be implemented beginning in the semester in which revenue bonds are issued, which will happen sometime prior to December 2021, depending on market rates.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment #1: ASMSU Resolution regarding fee increase
- Attachment #2: Schedule of Tuition and Fees