

May 18-19, 2022

INFORMATION ITEM

Request Authorization to Increase Mandatory Fees; University of Montana Western

THAT

Consistent with BOR 940.3 – Mandatory Fees, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes the University of Montana Western to increase a Building and Facilities Fee, the BARC fee, by \$100 per semester to provide funding for an addition to the Bulldog Athletics and Recreation Center for a Student Wellness Center.

EXPLANATION

1. Currently students have access to a weight room and small cardio space located in the Bulldog Athletic Recreation Center (BARC). This location is shared and gives priority to UMW Athletics and the Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA). The weight room is also closed during all athletic events. The other space on campus that was designated for student wellness activities has been reassigned as the MYCA dining hall. These issues often leave students without a space to engage in physical activity.
2. ASUMW and the UMW Foundation have secured plans and pricing for a new campus health and wellness center. Student fees and a \$500,000 secured gift will pay for the 3.6-million-dollar project. The new health and wellness center will be an approximately 6,000 square foot addition to the existing Bulldog Athletic and Recreation Center, a complex built in 1969 that is outdated and inadequate for the current physical and mental health needs of our students. In addition to a new space, there are updates to approximately 12,000 square feet.
3. Health and wellness centers are one of the most important places on a college campus for students to gather, socialize and engage in physical activity. The new center will address the physical and mental health needs of our entire campus community. At UMW, we want to help students prepare for a long and healthy lifestyle and are committed to keeping our students and campus community healthy and active. Students, faculty, and staff need a place dedicated to physical and mental health and wellness.
4. UMW and ASUMW is requesting authorization to increase its mandatory BARC Fee by \$100 per semester for all students. UMW is requesting authorization for Intent to Plan and has student funding for this process.
5. On November 16-23, 2020, ASUMW conducted a referendum campus wide. Students voted to approve a \$100 per semester increase in fees to support construction, operation, and maintenance of a new Student Wellness Center. A total of 635 students voted on the Student Wellness Center with 85% of students (539) voting in favor of the fee increase and 94% (595) in support of the expansion.
6. UMW anticipates that funds to construct the facility, in addition to the gift, will be borrowed. Financing authority will be requested at a subsequent Board of Regents meeting.
7. UMW anticipates that the fee increase will be implemented fall 2022.
8. In anticipation of this project, UMW reduced fees from FY 21-22 by \$10.50 and will reduce the Communications Technology Development Fee by \$17, causing this to be a \$72.50 net fee increase.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment #1: ASUMW Resolution Regarding Fee Increase

Attachment #2: Architecture Renderings