

September 21-22, 2022

ITEM 202-1601-R0922

**Request Authorization to Program, Plan, and Design a Building/Addition to the Wellness Center;
University of Montana Western**

THAT

Consistent with the Board's authority to manage and control the Montana University System, BOR Policy 1003.7, and MCA 20-25-302 (6)(c), the Board of Regents authorizes University of Montana Western to expend up to \$500,000 for planning, programming, design and associated pre-construction activities for a new facility at UMW.

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6,000 square foot addition to the existing Bulldog Athletic and Recreation Center, a complex built in 1969 that is outdated and inadequate for the current physical and mental health needs of our students.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. This request is for planning, design and pre-construction only to define the project scope and develop plans for a new facility.
 5. UMW will request additional construction authority and fee increase approval once initial planning and design phases are complete.
 6. UMW anticipates that funds to construct the facility, in addition to the gift, will be financed with student fee revenue paying any associated debt service.
-

ATTACHMENTS

None