

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-1603-R0523

Request for Authorization to Construct a Student Wellness Center; University of Montana Western

THAT

The Board of Regents authorizes University of Montana Western to expend up to \$3,600,000 for construction of a new Student Wellness Center at UMW.

This item is consistent with the Board's authority to manage the Montana University system in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7, and MCA 20-25-302.

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. The new health and wellness center will be an approximately 5,500 square foot addition to the existing Bulldog Athletic and Recreation Center, a complex built in 1969 that is outdated and inadequate for the current physical and mental health needs of our students.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 new space, there will be renovations to 12,000 square feet of existing space.
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. 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. Due to cost escalations, Student Senate endorsed the fee increase to go to \$110 in April of 2023.
5. The UMW will construct the facility with bond proceeds with debt service paid by a secured gift and BARC Fees.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment #1: Physical Plant B 1003.7
- Attachment #2: Cost Estimate
- Attachment #3: Drawings