

May 21, 2025

ITEM 218-2006-R0525

Request for Authorization to Increase the Recreation Fee in Support of Student Wellness Center Programming; Montana State University

THAT

The Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes Montana State University, in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 940.12.1, to increase the mandatory Recreation Fee (formerly embedded with the ASMSU Fee) by \$7.91 (12%) in FY26 and \$9.50 in FY27 (12.9%).

EXPLANATION

The Recreation fee supports student programming within the Student Wellness Center. The fee is mandatory for students taking 7 or more credits in any semester. The Student Wellness Center opened in Fall 2024 with expanded square footage and programmatic opportunities for students including a large climbing wall, pool, group fitness instruction, and more. With a fully operational facility, a large student and staff workforce is required to ensure functionality and safety expectations are achieved. In addition, the overall cost of operating the facility and meeting its mission of offering students the opportunity to enhance personal and community health and wellness is now better understood.

1. Student worker hours needed to operate the Student Wellness Center exceed 35,000 hours per year.
2. Hourly rates for students is \$15/hour, an increase from prior years. Student workers are primarily focused on the fitness center portion of the facility, which has not operated in a traditional sense since it was closed in March 2019.
3. The Student Wellness Center employs mostly students. However, some permanent staff are also employed and they will qualify for the legislative pay plan increase at \$1/hour, an average of 4%. No state funding is provided to the Student Wellness Center, so the recreation fee must cover 100% of all wage adjustments.
4. The majority of these permanent staff also qualify for healthcare benefits with an increased employer cost of \$312 per year in FY26 and \$324 per year in FY27.
5. This fee increase request is supported by, and submitted in coordination with, ASMSU to support ongoing and high levels of programmatic service in the Student Wellness Center.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: ASMSU Resolution in Support of Recreation Fee Increase