November 19-20, 2026

ITEM 227-1005-R1126

Request for Authorization to Name the Robert T. and Janet M. Wolfenden Forestry and Conservation Building (Clapp Building Replacement); University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Consistent with the Board of Regents' authority to manage and control the Montana University System and the provisions of BOR Policy 1004.1, the Board of Regents authorizes the University of Montana to name a new forestry and conservation facility at the Missoula campus, Robert T. and Janet M. Wolfenden Forestry and Conservation Building.

EXPLANATION

1. In October 2026, Bob Wolfenden pledged a $15 million investment in the construction of a new facility that will provide innovative classroom, laboratory, office, gathering, and study spaces for faculty, staff and students in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, as well as other University science programs and community partners. The building will serve as a hub for teaching, research, collaboration and innovation in the natural resource and conservation sciences.
2. The Wolfenden's commitment, together with other private gifts and documented pledge commitments, exceeds the $20 million match required to unlock the $52 million legislative appropriation for this facility, the "UM Clapp Building Replacement" project from the 69th legislature under HB 5.
3. Property and programs may be considered for naming by the Board pursuant to policy 1004.1, which requires a minimum of 14 days' notice to the public and an opportunity for members of the public to provide written comment.
4. Public comment on the proposed naming was invited through a public announcement distributed on October 28. Public comments are included in attachment #1.
5. UM now seeks Board of Regents approval for the naming of the Robert T. and Janet M. Wolfenden Forestry and Conservation Building.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Public Comment