March 19-20, 2009

ITEM 142-2004-R0309 **Proposed Amendments to HB005, MSU-Bozeman**

THAT: The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University-Bozeman to propose amendments to HB005 for the purpose of converting existing laboratories to long-term use and to increase general spending authority for making capital improvements to campus facilities.

EXPLANATION: Montana State University is requesting to convert existing laboratories to long-term use and to make capital improvements of $7,500,000 (authority only), contingent upon receipt of federal special revenue and/or grants. The Gaines Hall renovation project, authorized by the 60th Legislature, constructed temporary laboratory space to accommodate labs displaced by the renovation project. MSU has an opportunity to receive grant funds from NIH to renovate and convert the original labs for long-term use in support of existing biotech programs. This adaptive re-use would include installation of energy-efficient building systems and a building envelope upgrade.

If MSU is successful in securing a grant for this project, the completed facility will become a permanent element of the campus. Given that, this project will undergo the same detailed review as any other major campus construction project. Before the grant proposal is submitted, the project concept will be presented to the University Facilities Planning Board for its detailed review and endorsement. The University Facilities Planning Board is responsible for ensuring that a project reflects the University's design guidelines and the general components of the master plan.

MSU is also requesting authorization for general spending authority of $5,000,000 for the purpose of making capital improvements to campus facilities. Authority-only funds may include federal special revenue, donations, grants and higher education funds. All costs for the operations and maintenance for any new improvements constructed under this authorization will be paid by Montana State University from non-state funds. This general spending authority request is consistent with similar requests authorized by several previous legislatures and will enable MSU to quickly respond to evolving federal building renovation grant opportunities over the coming biennium.