

May 22-23, 2014

**ITEM 163-1005-R0514**

**Construction of an Intercollegiate Women's Softball Complex - University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

Consistent with the provisions of MCA 18-2-102 (2) (d) and MCA 20-25-309, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes the University of Montana – Missoula to implement the necessary steps, including the leasing of land to UM Foundation, to construct a women's softball complex on the University of Montana South Campus.

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**EXPLANATION**

In order for the University to remain in compliance with Title IX requirements related to gender equity, the University chose to add women's softball as a varsity sport. This was done after much input from both current and incoming UM female students and analysis of participation rates in Montana and surrounding states. Softball will become the ninth women's sport at UM. In May 2011, The Board of Regents of Higher Education approved an increase in the Student Athletic Fee by \$12.50 per semester (BOR ITEM 151-104-R0511) to assist with addressing Title IX compliance. The fee increase was supported by UM students. Women's softball officially begins in the fall of 2014 and practice for fall will be conducted at the Sentinel High School fields with the goal of moving to the new complex on South Campus in spring 2015. The initial phase of the project includes athletic synthetic turf, seating, dugouts, scoreboard, and batting cages. The estimated cost for initial phase is \$1.0 million and funded as follows:

- \$300,000 Athletics Reserve (Designated Index MGZ037)
- \$700,000 Private Donations (UM Foundation)

Concessions, locker rooms and other amenities may be added if funding/in-kind contributions become available. Efforts continue for fundraising and in-kind contributions which would allow the University to construct beyond the initial phase. Therefore, authority not-to-exceed \$1.5 million is requested. Project estimates were provided by SportsPlan, a national sports facilities consulting firm that worked extensively with UM on the design of the softball complex.

As allowed by MCA 20-25-309, it is the intent of the University to lease land on South Campus to the UM Foundation for the duration of the design and construction period of the project.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 – Women's Softball Design Documents
- Attachment 2 – Project Overview
- Attachment 3 – Memorandum of Agreement UM/UM Foundation
- Attachment 4 - Image