

May 25, 2017

ITEM 175-2012-R0517

**Request authorization to increase Student Engagement and Recreational Facilities Project Fee; Montana State University Bozeman**

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**THAT**

Consistent with BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions), the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes Montana State University to increase the ASMSU activity fee to provide funding for student clubs and Student Recreational Facilities Project.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. Students are encouraged to participate in activities, clubs and organizations because engagement in outreach and activities correlates with higher retention and graduation rates. See attachment 1, Forester Report. Available activities and opportunities currently include:
  - 256 registered student organizations with approximately 11,000 students involved in:
    - entertainment, educational, spiritual & cultural events
    - conferences and competitions
    - meaningful connections with peers outside the classroom in a positive environment
    - transfer of learning from inside the classroom to outside through group work, leadership opportunities and professional development in a student organization
  - 26 different club sports, including women's and men's rugby, triathlon club, lacrosse and others
  - Intramural activities in which approximately 2,600 students participate
  
2. This proposal was submitted for a campus-wide student vote and approved. The vote included endorsement of the following fees, as further described in the attachment to this Item.
  - \$3 increase to the registered student organization fee. This would bring the fee to \$9.70 per semester, and generate approximately \$75,000 per year. Detailed information regarding funding of student organizations can be found here <http://www.montana.edu/engagement/organizations/funding.html>.
  - \$13.38 fee per semester to construct a synthetic turf field and supporting infrastructure at the Dobbie Lambert Intramural Fields at a cost of approximately \$4.2 million. Primary users of the field would be club sports and intramural participants; however, space will be flexible for other usage as well. This project will include:
    - Turf area with goal posts, field lighting, scoreboard and seating for ~200 people.
    - Support building, including:
      - Pavilion/shelter, which can be reserved for a variety of uses
      - Storage for equipment
      - Restrooms
      - Team room/classroom for activity classes
      - Locker room
  - \$3.26 per semester to maintain and operate the field and facility in perpetuity

3. It is currently anticipated that funds to construct the facility will be borrowed through the State of Montana Board of Investments for a period of up to 15 years; the student referendum included approval of borrowing. Construction and borrowing authority from the Board of Regents will be requested at a subsequent Board meeting.
4. The above fees do not need to be implemented immediately, as construction and related debt retirement will take time; this will minimize the initial impact on student fees. The implementation schedule is proposed as follows:
  - \$3.00 student organization fee implemented in FY18
  - \$13.38 facility fee implemented \$6.69 in FY18 and \$6.69 in FY19
  - \$3.26 operations and maintenance fee implemented FY19
  - As a result, the total fee proposal is for an increase of \$9.69 in FY18 and \$9.95 in FY19

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#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Schedule of Mandatory
2. Summary of Student Vote
3. Excerpt from ASMSU Student Referendum Website
4. ASMSU Resolution Regarding SRF
5. Forester Report