

May 22-23, 2019

ITEM 183-2012-R5019

Request for authorization to renovate Romney Hall, Montana State University

THAT

Consistent with the provisions of MCA 18-2-102 2(c), BOR policy 1003.7, and as authorized in House Bill 652 of the 2019 66th Legislative session, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes MSU to renovate Romney Hall to provide modern instructional and student support facilities. The requested authority is for a total project cost of \$32,000,000.

EXPLANATION

1. In 2011, Romney Hall was originally listed as one of the top priorities for the State of Montana's Long-Range Building Program (LRBP) request under the Montana University System (MUS).
 2. In 2012, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education under Regents Policy 940.9.2 approved a design-only authority for \$150,000 for initial programming, schematic design and cost estimating.
 3. During the 2013 Montana Legislative Session, Romney Hall was listed as the second priority for the MUS LRBP request. Missoula College was the top priority at that time.
 4. In 2014, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education under Regents Policy 940.9.2 approved a design-only authority up to \$350,000 for continued programming, schematic design and cost estimating. In 2016, the Regents approved item 172-2004-R0916 for expanded programming and design-only services up to \$1,700,000 to prepare for the 2017 Legislative Session.
 5. During the 2015, 2017 and 2019 Montana Legislative Sessions, Romney Hall was top priority for the MUS LRBP request at \$28,000,000 for 2015 and 2017; the funding request was increased to \$32,000,000 in 2019 to account for inflation and market-driven pricing.
 6. The renovation of Romney Hall will repurpose an outdated 1922 gym located in the core of campus into much needed instructional space — more than 1,000 classroom seats — that will benefit students that come to Montana State University from every corner of the state of Montana. Romney Hall's renovation is focused on adding classrooms and space for three high-impact centers with a demonstrated record of helping students stay in school and graduate.
 7. The renovation of Romney Hall will offer students dedicated service centers for math, writing and veteran's support. The data clearly shows that these three centers help students improve their academic performance and graduate on time; the data also show that current space for these services have exceeded capacity.
 8. House Bill 652 of the 66th Legislature authorized a capital project to renovate Romney Hall. The same bill appropriated \$25,000,000 in State funding and provided \$7,000,000 in Authority Only.
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1 – Physical Plant B Section 1003.7