

July 14, 2022

ITEM 201-1002-R0722

Request for Authorization to Rename Dennis and Gretchen Eck Hall; University of Montana – Missoula

THAT

Consistent with the provisions of BOR Policy 1004.1, the Board of Regents authorizes the University of Montana to rename *Dennis and Gretchen Eck Hall* and the remaining portions of the Liberal Arts Building the *Dennis and Gretchen Eck Liberal Arts Building* in perpetuity.

EXPLANATION

Since 2014, donors Dennis and Gretchen have been philanthropic leaders in the renovation of the Liberal Arts Building at the University of Montana. Their collective passion for the liberal arts, along with their vision for how innovative learning and teaching environments can enhance the educational experience for students and faculty, has led to a remarkable transformation of the building.

Between 2014 and 2017, significant renovations took place in the Liberal Arts Building that include:

- 17 classrooms including a large auditorium were renovated to include innovative teaching technology,
- A new central entrance to the Oval was created,
- Three student and faculty engagement hubs and new coffee shop were created,
- Two sets of restrooms were remodeled to become ADA accessible
- A new academic advising center was created that provides students better access to professional academic advisors,
- Significant upgrades to the building's sprinkler, electrical, HVAC, and data and internet systems.

In September 2017, in recognition of the Eck's investments to support these renovations, the Board of Regents authorized the University of Montana to rename the Academic Hall of the Liberal Arts Building the *Dennis and Gretchen Eck Hall*.

Since 2017, additional renovations to the Dennis and Gretchen Eck Hall and Liberal Arts Building have been completed that include:

- Eight additional classrooms have been renovated with innovative teaching technology,
- Two sets of restrooms have been remodeled to be ADA accessible

In recognition of the Eck's continued investments, which have transformed the majority of the full building to provide innovative teaching, learning, student success, and gathering spaces, the University of Montana President and Interim Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences respectfully request the Board of Regents' approval to rename *Dennis and Gretchen Eck Hall* and the remaining portions of the Liberal Arts Building the *Dennis and Gretchen Eck Liberal Arts Building*. The term of the naming shall be in perpetuity as defined in BOR Policy 1004.1 which is for "the useful life of the property or program or as long as the program or property has not substantially changed."

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Memorandum from Julie Baldwin, Interim Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences

Attachment #2: Public Feedback (Meeting)

Attachment #3: Public Feedback (Email)