

ITEM 147-2003-R0510

Authorization to Proceed with Expansion of Residence Hall Wireless Internet Access; Montana State University

THAT

The Board of Regents authorizes MSU Bozeman to proceed with the expansion of wireless internet service throughout the living quarters of its housing system.

EXPLANATION

1. Wireless internet service is currently available in the lobbies and dining halls of the housing system. This project will enable occupants to receive wireless access in all individual residence hall rooms.
 2. This expansion will enable residents to move from room to room and floor to floor, while receiving continuous internet service. This service will enable the University to better meet students' expectations of modern living and learning facilities.
 3. The system has been reviewed by Information Technology personnel to assure compliance with the University's information technology policies and standards.
 4. The cost components are shown on the attached document, and include \$340,000 in identified costs, with \$20,000 in contingency, for a total of \$360,000.
 5. Project financing will be requested through the State of Montana Board of Investments Intercap Loan program. Intercap loans bear interest at a variable rate, which is currently 1.95%
 6. Loan repayments and wireless system operating costs will be funded through a re-allocation of costs currently incurred in the existing residence hall land-line telephone system.
 - a. Currently, only 27% of telephones in residence halls are utilized by occupants, yet the lines remain active at a fixed monthly cost.
 - b. Reducing the land-line service to only activated sets is expected to save approximately \$140,000 per year, which will be used to fund debt service and ongoing operations and maintenance of the wireless system.
 - c. Students wishing to retain land-line service may continue to do so.
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ATTACHMENTS

Project Cost Estimate