Attachment #1

A New Residence Hall on the Montana Tech Campus

BACKGROUND

The graph below depicts Montana Tech's enrollment growth over the course of the last eleven years. This increase in the number of students has outstripped our current housing capabilities. Montana Tech does enforce a requirement for first-time freshman to live on campus.



The freshman live-on requirement is an integral part of the institution's overall mission that incorporates student learning and development to enhance the overall educational experience. The relevant and desirable outcomes of this policy include: intellectual growth, effective communication, realistic self-appraisal, enhanced self-esteem, clarified values, career choices, leadership development, healthy behaviors, meaningful interpersonal relationships, independence, collaboration, social responsibility, satisfying and productive lifestyles, appreciation of diversity, spiritual awareness, and achievement of personal and educational goals.

Currently, Montana Tech has two on-campus dormitories with a total housing capacity of 286 students. In the academic years 2006-2009 we were forced to place excess residents in our apartment complex historically assigned to our married students and families. This overflow situation has created a shortage of living quarters for the married segment of our student population. Today's rental market in Butte is challenging. Many of our students find it difficult to find reasonably priced housing of suitable quality.

In academic year 2010, we changed our policy and offered a priority to freshman in our dormitories. This decision followed a recommendation by the NWCCU Accreditation Team that we address a housing shortage on our campus. The Accreditation Team specifically admonished the practice of placing firsttime freshman in a housing unit two miles from the campus and the food service operation.

Residence Hall Applications

In 2010, nearly all of the upper classmen requesting housing were assigned to the apartment housing complex (see the blue bar on the residence hall graph below).

PROJECT:

Montana Tech would like to construct a third dormitory on the campus. This facility will assist with the recruitment and retention of students and free up the apartment complex for married students with families.

Montana Tech's proposed residence hall will be a three-story facility intended to house approximately 100 residents. Also needed are a staff apartment, two multi-purpose rooms, study areas on each floor, a centralized TV lounge, laundry room, and kitchen.

These additional beds will accommodate any increases in our freshman class and also provide an avenue for the upper-classmen wishing to live on campus and use the campus food service.

The site proposed for the construction of this facility is the property directly west of the HPER complex. The preliminary site review raises no concerns regarding the readiness of this property

Staffing requirements will include one full-time custodian, a full-time assistant residence director, up to four student Resident Assistants, and student desk workers to staff the front desk. The main operation and upkeep of the building will be overseen by the Residence Life Office with the assistance of Physical Facilities.

Following additional planning efforts, Montana Tech will bring this project forward for board approval in conjunction with a bonding request of the University of Montana.

We are requesting an architect of record so that we can begin more specific planning and costing of this facility.