

May 25-26,2017

ITEM 175-2801-R0517

Request authorization to renovate existing space in the Student Union Building for Extended University Operations; Montana State University Northern

THAT

Consistent with the provisions of Regents Policies 1003.7 and 940.9.2, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University-Northern to renovate portions of the Student Union Building on Montana State University –Northern’s campus to expand Extended University operations and support the Little River institute. This authorization is for \$700,000.

EXPLANATION

1. In October 2015, Montana State University-Northern’s Extended University received a five- year, \$1.9 million grant through the Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Program of the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of this grant is to improve the retention and completion rates of Native American students in higher education. In order to insure the success of that mission, the Little River Institute was created to serve as a center of tutoring, mentoring, and support for Native American students at MSU-Northern, as well as provide a source of culturally responsive professional development for MSU-Northern faculty and staff.
 2. Currently, the Little River Institute occupies a former conference room on the 3rd floor of the Student Union Building (1960). MSU-Northern seeks permission to renovate the entire under-utilized 3rd floor of that building to better provide for expansion of services offered by the NASNTI grant to our Native American students as well as house supporting components of Extended University’s Online learning and Continuing Education programs.
 3. With the recent award of the NASNTI grant, Extended University has insufficient space for all its personnel and operations in its current office suite in Cowan Hall. This project would provide an ideal location to house all NASNTI grant operations and offices at a single location to ensure greater operational efficiency and effectiveness of the provided services to our Native American students.
 4. With the exception of general repairs and maintenance, the 3rd floor of the Student Union Building has not been upgraded since originally built.
 5. Until the recent occupancy of the Little River Institute in room 308 in 2016, the third floor of the SUB had remained virtually unused except as storage for several years due to its lack of accessibility. This project was also address ADA compliance throughout the entire building with the installation of an elevator in the facility. MSU-Northern believes that ADA accessibility will assist in providing more foot traffic not just to the Little River Institute and Extended University offices, but also to the Auxiliaries Operations located in the Student Union Building such as the bookstore, Pin-n-Cue recreation area, wellness room, etc.
 6. This project will be administered through the Architecture and Engineering Division.
-

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- Information required by BOR Policy 1003.7