

May 25-26, 2017

**ITEM 175-2804-R0517**

**Request for authorization to increase the student health fee; Montana State University Northern**

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**THAT**

Consistent with BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions) the Board of Regents of the Montana University System approves a \$20.50 increase to the Montana State University Northern Health Fee.

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**EXPLANATION**

At the September 2016 BOR meeting held in Billings, the Commissioner's Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health Task Force delivered their #1 recommendation – Clinician on Every Campus: *All MUS campuses should have a licensed mental health clinician on staff to assist with accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and appropriate follow-up.* The MUS campuses were charged with moving forward quickly to implement the recommendations. The proposed Health Fee increase would provide an additional \$32,000 and allow MSU Northern to quickly implement the task force's #1 recommendation of staffing a licensed mental health clinician and meet the mental health needs of students at MSU Northern.

MSU Northern's Student Health Services clinic receives slightly over \$40,000 per year on average from the current Health Fee. These funds pay the costs of operating the Student Health Service, including a three-quarter-time nurse/director and weekly physician assistant clinical hours, and provides all students access to those services. Expenditures have exceeded revenues for the past several years; other auxiliary services units have been funding the deficit.

The Montana State University Northern Health Fee is currently \$27.50 for all Havre campus based students taking more than six credits. The proposed \$20.50 increase to the fee was brought forward by the ASMSUN Student Senate and is proposed to help offset nearly half of the cost of hiring MSU Northern's first Student Mental Health Counselor. Including benefits, the personnel expense is estimated to be \$65,425. This necessary increase in services brings Northern closer in line with the rest of the MUS for mental health services while still maintaining one of the lowest health fees in the system.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Proposed Mandatory Fee Schedule