

May 26-27, 2021

**ITEM 194-1011-R0521**

**Request for Authorization to Construct a New Dining Facility, University of Montana - Missoula**

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**THAT**

Consistent with MCA 18-2-102(2)(b) and MCA 20-25-302 (1)(c) and in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes the University of Montana – Missoula to expend up to \$27,000,000 to construct a new Dining Facility and demolish part of the Lommasson Center and part of Craig Hall to make land available for the construction of the new Dining Facility.

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**EXPLANATION**

UM's existing dining facility (the Food Zoo) is substantially less contemporary than most peer institutions. The Lommasson Center was built in the 1950s and has a severe deferred maintenance backlog requiring several million dollars to repair. These repairs to outdated electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems would not be seen by guests and would do little to attract new students. The Food Zoo is located in a sub-basement, hindering natural daylight, views, and accessibility. Potential new students are evaluating the age, style, and condition of UM's dining and housing options in comparison to peer universities, placing UM at a distinct competitive disadvantage.

The recent Student Life Master Plan study conducted by SMA/NAC architects in 2019 proposed abandoning the Food Zoo and constructing a new Dining Facility at the east end of the current Lommasson Center. The proposed new facility will bring a modern, student-focused, restaurant-styled dining experience to campus and launch the University's renewed focus on the student experience with an adaptable place to dine, socialize and study. The new Dining Facility will occupy a prominent site on campus near the Oval, the Griz statue and Ryman Mall, with full accessibility, daylight, and views to Mt. Sentinel, the M and Main Hall.

To make space available for the Dining Facility, the east half of the Lommasson Center is proposed to be demolished in fall/winter 2021 as well as part of the north wing of Craig Hall in summer 2021. Construction is proposed to begin in early 2022 and be complete by fall semester of 2023. Until the new Dining Facility is completed, students will continue to be served meals from the Food Zoo. UM staff displaced by the partial demolition of Lommasson Center will be relocated to Aber Hall, which will be remodeled to accommodate administrative staff (see BOR item 191-1009-R1120 approved November 19, 2020).

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment #1: BOR Policy Physical Plant B Section 1003.7
- Attachment #2: Proposed Demolition Phasing
- Attachment #3: Proposed UM Dining Site