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Additional \$1 million awarded to UM by Regents for 1976-77 fiscal year

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IMMEDIATELY

ADDITIONAL \$1 MILLION AWARDED TO UM
BY REGENTS FOR 1976-77 FISCAL YEAR

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MISSOULA--

Additional funds totaling \$1,057,282 awarded Monday, April 12, in Helena to the University of Montana, Missoula, for the 1976-77 fiscal year will include funding for an average 6 percent salary boost for UM faculty members and supplementary increases for the University Library and UM School of Law.

According to UM President Richard C. Bowers, the money awarded to UM by the Board of Regents of Higher Education is in addition to the \$18.4 million in funds previously budgeted for the University for the upcoming fiscal year.

The additional funds include \$860,874 for several priority items; \$75,000 for UM Library acquisitions, and \$121,408 for the UM law school.

In an interview Tuesday, Bowers said the Board of Regents cited three budgetary guidelines for the University and other units of the Montana University System.

The guidelines are:

--An average 6 percent salary increase for faculty members and staff members who are not included in the Statewide Pay Classification Plan.

--Money to provide for a 13 percent increase in operational costs.

--Funds to provide for a 10 percent increase in capital equipment and books.

The 13 percent increase in operational costs at the University includes funds for increased utility costs and supplies.

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Commenting on the \$860,874 in additional funds awarded to UM by the Board of Regents for priority items for 1976-77, Bowers said, "With the money that the University budgeted for 1976-77 and our carry-over funding from increased enrollment beyond projections, we would have been \$860,874 short of meeting the 1976-77 guidelines if the Board of Regents hadn't made the added appropriation."

Also included in the \$1,057,282 in additional funds earmarked for the University for the next fiscal year is \$75,000 for books and other acquisitions for the UM Library and \$121,408 to improve the standards of the UM School of Law.

Bowers said the additional funds are needed by the UM law school to offset salary compensation deficiencies and other law school accreditation problems set down by the American Bar Association. He added, "If not used specifically for the law school, the \$121,408 will be returned to the Regents' discretionary fund."

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