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FOR RELEASE MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1960

MISSOULA, August 8---Bids for construction of a major addition to the Liberal Arts Building on the Montana State University campus will be opened by the State Board of Regents at its meeting in Helena tomorrow, it was announced here by MSU authorities. If bids are accepted, the University expects ground breaking before the end of August, the third major construction start on the campus within six months.

The new addition will nearly double the size of the Liberal Arts building. When work is completed in time for the fall session of 1961, the structure will enclose more than 100,000 square feet of floor space. Designed by the Missoula architectural firm of H. E. Kirkemo & Associates, the addition will conform in floor levels, internal and external treatment with the parent building erected in 1954. The south elevation will consist of three stories of classrooms, continuing the existing structural layout. The new west wing, in conformity with the east wing, will consist of four office levels. A new two-story wing will be centered on the north wall.

Construction of the Liberal Arts addition will provide the University with badly needed classroom and office space, made necessary by present and expected enrollment increases, according to Dr. H. K. Newburn, president. The extension will also enable the University to consolidate all the social sciences, humanities and the School of Education in one building, and will lead to closing out temporary classroom buildings now occupied by some of the branches.

The MSU construction program got its start late in March with ground breaking for the new Health Sciences Building. The structural frame for this eventual five-story laboratory building is now rising above the third floor level. Meanwhile the University has made a start on the new Law School. Excavation was completed in July and structural members of pre-stressed concrete will be ready for assembly in the near future.