

Authorization to Design the Student Center Building Renovation

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors authorize the President or his designee, to award contracts up to \$1.3 million to complete design phase activities for the renovation of the Student Center Building. Funding for this project will be provided from the reserve for non-recurring projects (\$10.5 million at 11-30-12). The total project is expected to cost about \$23 million and will be funded by a combination of debt and philanthropy. Debt service will be funded by an increase to the Student Activities fee beginning in Fall of 2013.

Background and Project Description

The Student Center Building was originally constructed in 1969, and provides approximately 197,000 net square feet of building area including a food court, ballroom, meeting rooms, offices, recreation and study space. Despite the considerable growth of the on-campus population and other campus amenities such as the Fitness Center, the existing Student Center Building has not undergone any major renovations or improvements to keep pace with the demands of on-campus student life. The current atmosphere, appearance and amenity service functions of the building no longer effectively meet the demands of the campus population.

Completing the proposed project will improve student life by renovating the basement through the third floor to provide a completely new food court and dining area, new student activity and organization facilities, and significantly improved retail and recreation options. The building footprint will be expanded by converting the current exterior colonnade on Gullen Mall to interior space, with exciting new entrances at each end of the building. Improvements will also be made to interior circulation, and mechanical and electrical systems; and the exterior skin of the building will be refurbished or replaced. In total over 95,000 sq. ft. of space will be renovated, creating new and dynamic spaces to improve the campus image and experience in order to enhance student recruitment and retention.

All contracts for this project will be awarded in accordance with University policies and procedures and with a focus on sustainability.