

## **Capital Project for Renovations to Undergraduate Science Laboratories**

### **JOINT FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**June 5, 2017**

The Board of Visitors authorized a \$600,000 planning authorization at its June 6, 2016 meeting for renovations to repurpose deteriorated and inefficient faculty laboratory spaces to accommodate enrollment growth in engineering, life sciences, and other technology related majors that require introductory science laboratory courses.

Preliminary designs are nearly complete for renovations of spaces in Hahn Hall and Derring Hall to create seven new undergraduate laboratory instruction spaces, one science instruction classroom, and four multi-purpose science instruction spaces. The total project includes 20,800 square feet of improvements including relocation and consolidation of the inefficient faculty laboratory spaces to make way for the instructional expansion. These improvements will add 168 new stations to the sciences instruction laboratory inventory that will accommodate approximately 5,140 additional contact hours per academic year for high demand course sections in biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, and microbiology.

The project schedule calls for construction to begin in January 2018 and for the spaces to be available for scheduling fall 2018 course sections. To meet this schedule, the university is requesting authorization for the full project in June 2017 to ensure working drawings are complete by December 2017 and for construction to start in January 2018. These improvements are planned and sized in strategic coordination with the expected program of the new 105,000 gross square foot, state-funded, undergraduate science laboratory building expected to open in fall of 2020, pending the appropriation of construction funding from the state.

The total project costs inclusive of planning, construction, and equipment is \$10 million. At this time, the university is requesting authorization for a supplemental \$9.4 million to complete the project budget. As with all self-supporting projects, the university has developed a funding plan to provide assurance regarding the financial feasibility of the project. The university has prepared a funding plan of entirely nongeneral fund resources sufficient to fund the entire \$10 million of project costs.

Under the 2006 Management Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the university, the Board of Visitors has the authority to approve the budget, size, scope, and funding of nongeneral fund capital outlay projects. This request is for a \$9.4 million supplement to complete working drawings design and construction of the renovation project.

## **RESOLUTION ON CAPITAL PROJECT FOR RENOVATIONS TO UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE LABORATORIES**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech is pursuing a plan to expand undergraduate enrollments including a significant expansion in engineering students, and other technology related majors that require introductory sciences; and,

**WHEREAS**, the enrollment growth places increased demand for undergraduate introductory science classes in the Departments of Biology and Chemistry; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Visitors authorized a \$600,000 planning project in June 2016, and the university continues to pursue a two-part strategy to accommodate the instructional pressures of enrollment growth, including new construction to add space and renovations to repurpose existing space for additional instructional capacity; and,

**WHEREAS**, the renovation component includes improvements to 20,000 square feet in Derring Hall and Hahn Hall North to increase science instruction space; and,

**WHEREAS**, the university has completed preliminary designs and is on pace to complete work drawing designs by December 2017 with occupancy expected for fall semester 2018; and,

**WHEREAS**, the total project budget for the renovations component is \$10 million including planning, construction, and equipment, and the university has developed a 100 percent nongeneral fund resource plan to support the costs; and,

**WHEREAS**, under the 2006 Management Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the university, the Board of Visitors has authority to approve the budget, size, scope, and funding of nongeneral funded major capital outlay projects;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the university be authorized to move forward with a \$9.4 million supplemental authorization to complete working drawings designs and construction for the Renovations to Undergraduate Science Laboratories and to fund the planning with entirely nongeneral fund revenues.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the resolution authorizing Virginia Tech to complete the Renovations to Undergraduate Science Laboratories at a total project budget not to exceed \$10 million be approved.

June 5, 2017