

Capital Project for Planning Renovations for Undergraduate Science Laboratories

JOINT FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

May 6, 2016

The university's goal to accommodate enrollment growth includes expansion in engineering and other technology-based majors that require introductory science laboratory courses. The university's current inventory of science instruction laboratory spaces is not sufficient to accommodate projected enrollment growth through 2023. To meet demand for laboratory instruction, the university has developed a two-pronged strategy that includes new construction to add space and renovations to repurpose underutilized spaces. During the 2016 state budget session, the university successfully obtained a state-funded planning project for a new 105,000 gross square foot laboratory instruction building to help meet this demand. The planning project is effective July 1, 2017, and the building may be available for scheduling fall semester 2021.

The renovations component provides strategically important space to address short and long-term needs to accommodate the planned enrollment growth. In the short-term, the renovations will provide space to meet the immediate impacts of enrollment growth demand for laboratory courses until the new building is available. In the long-term, the renovations will also serve to fully accommodate expected demand for laboratory course sections through 2023 and beyond. These renovations will be planned in coordination with planning for the new laboratory building to leverage both investments for optimal capacity and impact.

The plan for the renovations component of the two-part strategy is for the university to self-fund repurposing up to seven laboratory spaces in Derring Hall and up to three laboratories in Hahn Hall. These laboratories would expand space to meet growing demand for course sections in biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, and micro-biology.

At this time, the university is requesting a planning authorization for \$600,000 to complete preliminary designs for a renovation project. A subsequent request for the entire project (inclusive of design, construction, and equipment) may be submitted once a firm scope, schedule, cost, and funding plan are established. The funding plan for this planning activity calls for temporary internal funding that may be reimbursed after a full project is authorized.

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 \$600,000 planning authorization to complete preliminary designs for the proposed renovation project.

RESOLUTION ON CAPITAL PROJECT FOR PLANNING RENOVATIONS FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE LABORATORIES

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

WHEREAS, the enrollment growth will increase demand for undergraduate introductory science laboratory classes in the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics; and,

WHEREAS, the existing facility inventory is not sufficient to meet projected course section scheduling; and,

WHEREAS, the university has developed a two-part strategy including new construction to add space and renovations to repurpose existing space to create instructional laboratories; and,

WHEREAS, the renovation component includes creating up to ten instructional laboratory spaces in the northwest part of campus to proximally locate the spaces with existing science laboratory instruction activities in Derring and Hahn Hall North; and,

WHEREAS, the planning budget for preparing preliminary design documents is \$600,000 and the university has developed a 100 percent nongeneral fund resource plan to support the costs; and,

WHEREAS, the university may request a subsequent authorization for the entire project once a firm scope, schedule, cost, and funding plan are established; 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 \$600,000 planning authorization to complete preliminary designs for the Renovations for Undergraduate Science Laboratories and to fund the planning with entirely nongeneral fund revenues.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution authorizing Virginia Tech to plan the Renovations for Undergraduate Science Laboratories be approved.

June 6, 2016