

July 22, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Utah State University – Biological Science Building Design Approval

Issue

Utah State University (USU) requests authorization to use non-state funding to plan and design the Biological Science Building, the University's highest priority state funded project request for FY 2017.

Background

During the 2015 General Session, the Legislature passed intent language in Senate Bill 3, *Appropriations Adjustments* that permits "institutions of higher education to use donated or institutional funds for planning and design of proposed capital developments." Regent policy R710 requires Regent approval before institutions may request authorization of the State Building Board to use non-state sources for planning and design purposes. Designed facilities will not necessarily receive a higher priority for funding from either the Legislature or the State Building Board.

USU requests authorization to use donated funds to plan and design the Biological Science Building project, which will include the addition of a 110,000 gross square foot facility and the renovation of the adjacent Biology and Natural Resources Building. The project will provide new and updated teaching and research laboratories for the biological sciences. USU estimates programming costs of between \$500,000 and \$600,000 and design costs of approximately \$3,700,000.

Additional information may be found in the attached letter from the University. University officials will be present at the meeting to provide additional information and respond to questions from the Regents.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends Board authorization to allow USU to expend non-state resources to plan and design the Biological Science Building project.

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David L. Buhler  
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/GLS/RPA  
Attachment

July 10, 2015

Commissioner David L. Buhler  
Utah State Board of Regents  
Board of Regents Building The Gateway  
60 South 400 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1284

Dear Commissioner Buhler:

Utah State University desires to begin the design phase of the Biological Science Building project which will be presented during the 2016 Legislative Session as the University's highest priority state funded project request. During the 2015 Legislative Session authorization was given to institutions of higher education to use donated or institutional funds for planning and design of proposed capital development projects. In order to expedite the project, design approval is being requested so that construction can begin as soon as possible following legislative approval.

This Biological Sciences Building project consists of a 110,000 gross square foot building on the site of the former Agricultural Sciences Building and renovation of the adjacent aging Biology and Natural Resources Building to serve the needs of nearly 600 undergraduate Biology majors. In addition the Biology Department serves thousands of additional students with general education requirements, as well as hundreds of non-majors who are preparing for careers in the health professions, agriculture, and natural resources. The new building will provide critical replacement and expansion space for the Biology Department, focusing on new teaching and research laboratories. The renovation will provide updated teaching/class laboratories, space for several collection-based teaching labs, and upgrades to the mechanical, structural, and energy systems that are required by code. This item will be presented to the Board of Trustees during the July 17, 2015 meeting.

We appreciate your support and ask that you present this item for Regents approval.

Sincerely,



David T. Cowley  
Vice President for  
Business and Finance

C: Greg Stauffer, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities  
Stan Albrecht, President