

November 9, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Utah State University – Non-State Funded Dairy Barn Project Approval

Issue

Utah State University (USU) requests authorization to proceed with a non-state funded project to construct a new dairy barn at the Caine Dairy in Wellsville, Utah.

Background

Regent policy R710, *Capital Facilities*, requires that the Regents review major construction or remodeling projects that cost more than \$1,000,000 and are funded with non-state funds. Building Board approval is also required by state statute (63A-5-104) for “capital development” projects with more than \$500,000 of new space. USU proposes to use commodity revenues from the Agricultural Experiment Station to replace an aging dairy barn with a new building of approximately 25,280 square feet. The anticipated cost to construct this new facility is \$1,250,000 and no state appropriated funds will be used in its design, construction, operation, or maintenance.

USU operates the Caine Dairy Teaching and Research Center in Wellsville, Utah as part of its network of agricultural research stations. The dairy is among the country’s leading dairy production research centers and allows students the opportunity to study animal nutrition, reproduction, health, and waste-handling. The current barn at the dairy is 35 years old and contains outdated infrastructure and equipment. A new barn will make use of modern dairy technology, accommodate up to 124 dairy cows, and improve the learning environment for students and the public. Additional information about the project is provided in the attached letter and map from the University. Representatives from USU will be at the meeting to provide additional information and respond to questions from the Board.

Commissioner’s Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Board authorize the University to present this proposal to the Utah State Building Board for final approval.

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/KLH/RPA
Attachments

October 25, 2016

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

Subject: Dairy Barn at the Caine Dairy

Dear Commissioner Buhler:

Utah State University requests approval to construct a new dairy barn, a non-state funded project, located at the Caine Dairy in Wellsville, Utah.

The University's current dairy barn is 35 years old, near the end of its useful life, and equipped with outdated milking machines using outdated technology. Additionally, the waste is subject to rainfall and storm water adding a burden to the lagoon system since the current facility is not fully enclosed.

The proposed \$1,250,000, 25,280 square-foot fully enclosed pre-engineered steel building will house two robotic milking stations, a milk processing room, a robotic manure scraping system to reduce the burden on the lagoon system, and a robotic feed management system that can accommodate and provide space for 124 dairy cows. In addition to the dairy functions, the building will feature two offices, restrooms, and a utility room.

Investing in robotic operations, will allow students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the most up-to-date technology and will provide resources to the public through the University's extension role. No funds will be requested from the State for operations and maintenance. The project will be funded by Agriculture Experiment Station commodity revenues.

We appreciate your support and ask that you present this item to the Board of Regents for approval during the November 18, 2016 meeting.

Sincerely,



David T. Cowley
Vice President for
Business and Finance

C: Kimberly Henrie, Associate Commissioner for Finance & Facilities
Rich Amon, Assistant Commissioner for Business Operations
Stan Albrecht, President
Charles Darnell, Associate Vice President for Facilities

