

March 21, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Weber State University – Outdoor Recreation Center Non-State Funded Project

Issue

As required by Regent Policy R702, *Non-State Funded Projects* Weber State University (WSU) requests Board authorization to proceed with a non-state funded project to construct an Outdoor Recreation Center on the Ogden Campus for \$6,300,000.

Background

Regent policy R702 requires the Board to review capital projects requiring State Building Board or Legislative approval. State statute (63A-5-104) defines capital projects with more than \$500,000 of new space as “capital developments” and allows the State Building Board to approve those projects without legislative approval if the project does not use state funding sources for the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the facility.

WSU currently provides outdoor recreation equipment and adventures to students, faculty, staff, and the public at the Outdoor Recreation Center located in a small home built in 1957. The University requests approval to construct a new Outdoor Recreation Building to better accommodate student demand for outdoor recreation opportunities as well as provide a welcome center for prospective students. The new 16,000 square foot facility would be located central to student housing and include space for equipment rentals, program orientation, and administrative offices. The project is estimated to cost \$6,300,000 funded from donations, student fees, and other non-appropriated university funds. No state funds will be used in the design, construction, operation, maintenance or improvement of the project.

The University's Board of Trustees approved this project in their March 20, 2018 meeting. Additional information about the project is provided in the attached letter from the University, map of the proposed site, and artist rendition of the project. Representatives from WSU will be present at the meeting to provide additional information and respond to questions from the Board.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Board authorize Weber State University to present the Outdoor Recreation Center project to the Utah State Building Board for final approval.

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/KLH/RPA
Attachment



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

March 6, 2018

Dr. Dave Buhler, Commissioner
Utah System of Higher Education
Board of Regents Building
60 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1284

Dear Commissioner Buhler,

Weber State University seeks authorization to design and construct a new Outdoor Recreation Center located on our Ogden Campus.

The WSU Outdoor Recreation Program is currently located in a 3100 square foot converted home that was built in 1957. Since the 1970's, the program has provided equipment, training and organized group outings that allow students to experience and enjoy Utah's exceptional outdoor activities. Hiking, climbing, camping, snow, and water sports are all located within minutes of the Ogden Campus. The program has grown to serve over 18,000 people annually, organizing and leading over 200 trips every year. The demands on the program have far outgrown the small home it currently occupies.

The new facility will be located in the heart of WSU's new student housing. It will house recreation equipment storage and checkout space, activity training and orientation space, equipment maintenance space, administrative offices, trip planning and customer service space. The building will also include a welcome center for future students and their families interested in attending Weber State University.

The new Outdoor Recreation Building will be approximately 16,000 square feet. The total estimated project cost for the new facility is \$6.3 million. The project will be funded from donor funds, student fee reserves, and institutional funds. The ongoing O&M for this facility will be provided by the income from student programs.

The Weber State student body and university administrators have worked hard to provide student recreation space comparable to what can be found at other USHE institutions while incurring minimal debt and without increasing student fees. This new facility will be another example of a strong commitment to student retention, student success, and fiscal conservatism.

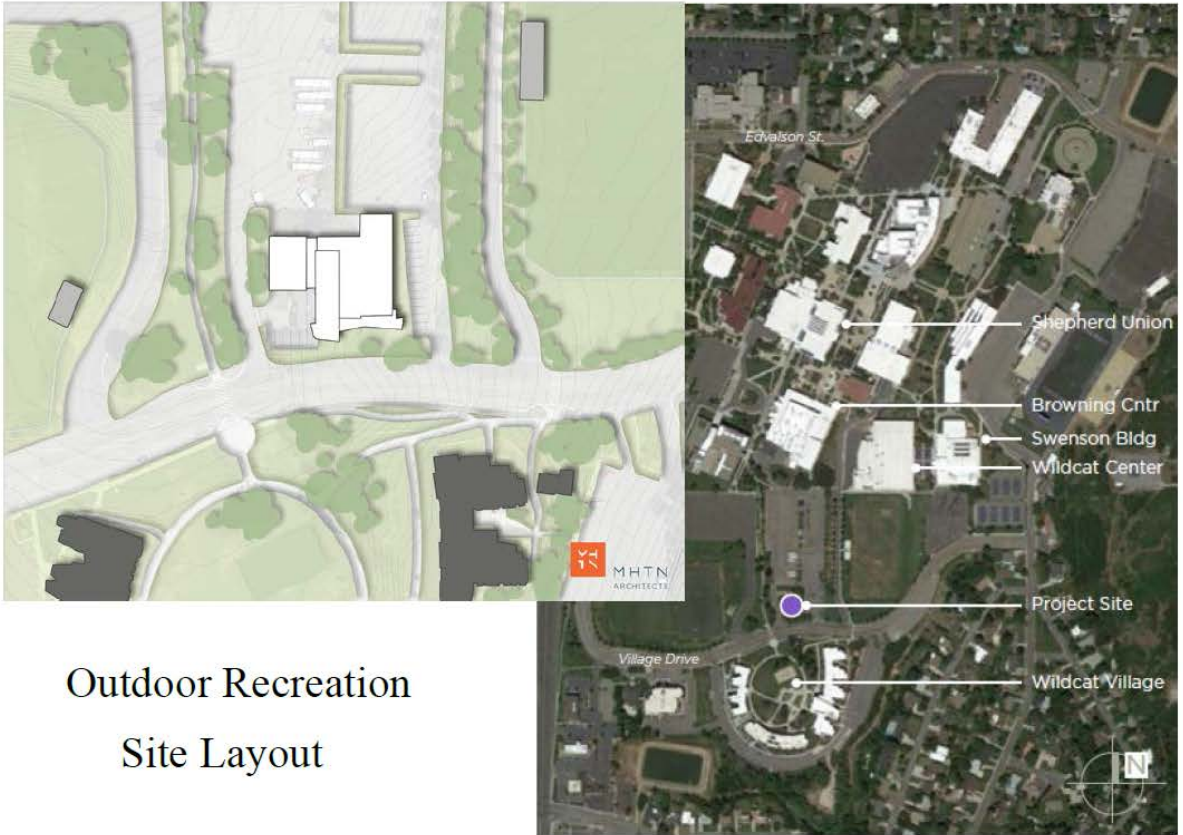
Weber State would like to proceed with the programming, design, and construction of this new facility as soon as possible.

Please place this item on the Board of Regents agenda for the March 30th meeting. I have attached the site location, and architectural rendering and will be present at the March 30, 2018 meeting to address any questions the Board may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norm Tarbox'.

Dr. Norm Tarbox
Vice President for Administrative Services



Outdoor Recreation
Site Layout