UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

Dedicated Capital Development Project Request

2023 General Session Authorization for Fiscal Year 2024

Utah State University
Science Engineering Research Building Renovation

New space	0
Remodeled space	14,600 Sq Ft
Total Project space	14,600 Sq Ft
Demolished space	0

Project Cost	$4,200,000
Anticipated Dedicated Funds	$4,200,000
Other Funds	0

Describe source and amount of other funds; attach letter(s) of commitment from donors that cite timing and amount of any donations

N/A

☐ **Letter(s) of commitment attached**

Threshold requirements for capital projects: refer to R741-4 for instructions; ensure criteria are fully addressed

1. Cost Effective and Efficient Use of Resources

The renovation of the SER building is inherently more cost effective than building new square footage. The renovation costs are roughly 1/2 the cost of new construction, and does not require the use of any new land. Re-use of existing space utilizes existing resources and reduces the need to build new buildings. The project will also utilize existing O&M funding. The re-location of Computer Science to SER also creates programmatic and functional efficiencies. The move will provide optimal adjacency for the department to the rest of the College of Science, and will give the program a better outward public presence. The department is now in a location that is remote from the rest of the College, with inconvenient access on the fourth floor of Old Main. The move to SER will place the department within a building already occupied by the College of Science. The new space will provide new opportunities to showcase the work and activities of the department in a way that is much more visible and accessible due to the location available on the main level of the

SER adjacent to the southeast entry. The new location will help the department develop a better identity and presence, and will provide new opportunities for branding and recruitment. The presence of Computer Science will breathe new life and activate the main level of this building as student centric space. Additionally, there are opportunities for Computer Science to collaborate and share spaces with the other College of Science occupants of the building, primarily the Physics Department.

2. Consistent with Institutional Role, Mission, and Master Plan

The mission at Utah State University is "to be one of the nation's premier student-centered land-grant and space-grant universities by fostering the principle that academics come first, by cultivating diversity of thought and culture, and by serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement." The Computer Science Department is a high priority in serving this mission, as it is a rapidly growing and changing field which has become centrally important to all aspects of society. High quality, modern space that allows for growth of the department will be essential in ensuring it's success. The guiding principles developed by the Computer Science Department for the project include four goals, which tie directly to the role and mission of USU: 1. Foster Community - the project will create a space which can foster a sense of community and belonging for the faculty and students, including space that the whole department can gather, and is welcoming, comfortable, and inspiring. These spaces will allow connection and collaboration within the department as well as across multiple disciplines. 2. Be Student Centric - the project will provide common areas or rooms for collaborative work, and sufficient space for coaching and tutoring. 3. Practice Continuous Improvement - the new space will be flexible to allow for changes in response to new needs and ideas that will come out of the department's continuous-improvement process. 4. Innovation and Opportunity - the new spaces will foster innovation and provide an opportunity for students to shine. Multi-use spaces will accommodate poster sessions, large group activities, and project demonstrations. The USU Master Plan and Central Core District Plan acknowledge the current SER building as a high quality and relatively new building, one which will serve the university for many more years. The Central Core District Plan anticipates that the SER building will remain viable for campus for 25+ years.

3. Fulfillment of a Critical Institutional Need

The Computer Science Department is one of the largest and fastest growing programs within the College of Science, but its current location has no capacity for growth. It also does not offer any student study or collaboration space. Addressing these needs is a top institutional priority. The re-location of the department to the SER will provide 30% more space to the Department, to accommodate growth and provide additional student study and tutoring space. The move will also solve many other institutional needs. The Computer Science move to the vacated space that was left by the IT Department is just one of a series of strategic moves that the university is planning in order to optimize space, provide space for new or expanding units, and increase the efficiency of space through desired adjacencies and appropriate fit. This USU Domino Effect Space Study is currently reliant upon the Computer Science move to SER as the first major move to start this process. The vacated space in Old Main is needed for two units: The first is for the office of the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity. The second is to accommodate the Journalism and Communication (JCOM) department with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. These additional

moves (funded separately) will allow those units to achieve optimal adjacencies within Old Main, will provide the needed space for growth, and will be able to meet other specialized needs.