

TOPIC: University of Maryland, College Park: School of Public Health Building Increase in Project Authorization for Phase II—Conversion of Locker Rooms into STEM Facilities

COMMITTEE: Finance

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: January 25, 2018

SUMMARY: The University of Maryland, College Park requests Board of Regents approval to convert about 9,800 GSF of underutilized locker rooms, classrooms and storage rooms on the ground floor of the School of Public Health Building into six research/teaching laboratories and five new learning studios.

This request is for the second phase of a two-phased project to convert underutilized space in the School of Public Health Building into research, instructional and office space to support the implementation of a new undergraduate STEM major, Public Health Science. This project supports the State of Maryland's 55 percent college completion goal and strategic goals for the economy and workforce, in particular in the STEM fields. Phase I, which included the office space, was completed in December, 2016 at a cost of \$3.35M. Design for both phases was completed under Phase I.

Phase II of the project was initially budgeted at \$4.9M and approved under the authority of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance in May 2016. Subsequently, the scope and budget increased to \$7.827M. Since the project budget now exceeds \$5M, Board of Regents approval is required.

The University put the design of Phase II on hold to re-evaluate the scope given faster than anticipated growth of the Public Health Science major and the desire to ensure the laboratory spaces would meet the School's research objectives. At the time of the original approval, the School of Public Health estimated that the major had the potential of attracting about 500 students. Currently, the major, which started in 2015, has grown to 800 students and is projected to increase to 900 in Spring 2018.

Due to lack of sufficient classroom space in the School of Public Health Building, some instruction has to occur in classrooms in other buildings on campus. The proposed five new learning studios will allow all instruction to occur in the School of Public Health Building. The laboratories have been redesigned to provide more robust HVAC and electrical systems than originally proposed, which provide for more stringent temperature and humidity controls and back-up power for critical laboratory equipment. This will enhance the ability of the School of Public Health to secure sponsored research opportunities.

The scope re-evaluation and redesign has resulted in a one-year delay in project implementation. Design is completed and, pending the Board's approval, the University plans to award construction in February 2018 and complete construction in August 2018.

ALTERNATIVE(S): The University could proceed with the originally authorized budget of \$4.9M. This would require significant scope reductions that would not allow the School to attract new research opportunities nor meet the needs of its rapidly growing major.

FISCAL IMPACT: The scope increase and inflationary cost increase due to the delay have resulted in a \$2.927M budget increase. This project will be funded from \$7.827M of institutional cash.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: That the Finance Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve for the University of Maryland, College Park, an increase in project authorization for phase II of the School of Public Health Building not to exceed \$7.827M, as described above.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DATE: 1/25/18

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Ellen Herbst (301) 445-1923
