TOPIC: University of Maryland, College Park: University of Maryland College Park Foundation Right of Entry for Construction of the Innovate, Design and Engineer for America Factory Building

COMMITTEE: Finance

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: January 25, 2018

SUMMARY: The Executive Committee of the University of Maryland College Park Foundation (Foundation) requests Board of Regents approval to enter the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) to construct a 60,000 GSF Innovate, Design and Engineer for America (IDEA) Factory Building.

The IDEA Factory Building will enhance the ability of the A. James Clark School of Engineering to inspire innovation and entrepreneurship among its students and enable world class research in robotics, quantum technology, transportation and advanced/additive manufacturing. It will bring together students, faculty and staff to conceive ideas, develop designs, build prototypes, develop business plans and bring products to the market to spur economic development in the region, state and nation.

The building will include open workspaces for students, rapid prototyping facilities, immersive engineering design/instructional studios, a mobile applications lab, an internet of things (IOT) lab, and a student-run incubator. It will also house several world class research laboratories, institutes and centers including the Alfred Gessow Rotorcraft Laboratory, Robotics Realization Laboratory, Advanced/Additive Manufacturing Laboratory, Quantum Technology Laboratory and the Maryland Transportation Institute. The building will be located on the site of the Potomac Building, a 17,623 GSF three-story structure originally built in 1955, and will be connected to the Jeong H. Kim Engineering Building. The occupants of the Potomac Building will be relocated to other buildings on campus prior to demolition.

This project is budgeted at $50 million and will be funded privately through the Foundation, with $25 million from the recently announced $219 million Clark Foundation Gift. In order to meet the ambitious schedule in the gift agreement, all design, construction and equipment contracts will be secured by and be the responsibility of the Foundation. The Foundation will work closely with the University during the design, construction and equipping period and upon completion, will convey its interests in the improvements to the University.

ALTERNATIVE(S): The University considered renovating existing space for these functions. This solution would not have been attractive to the prospective project donors. Moreover, underutilized space is very limited and spread out over campus in small amounts. Renovating small portions of several buildings scattered over campus would significantly hinder the collaboration required for this enterprise to succeed.

FISCAL IMPACT: The $50 million cost to design, construct and equip the building will be funded by the Foundation through private donations. The A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation has committed $25 million to this project as part of its recently announced historic investment of nearly $220 million in UMD. For the $25 million balance, UMD has obtained a $10 million gift for this project, and is actively pursuing additional gifts.
CHANCELLOR’S RECOMMENDATION: That the Finance Committee recommend that the Board of Regents authorize the University of Maryland, College Park to grant access to its property to the Foundation for the purpose of constructing the IDEA Factory Building as described above, to be funded with Foundation assets.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:  

BOARD ACTION:  

SUBMITTED BY: Ellen Herbst (301) 445-1923