

Office of the President
October 18, 2019

Members, Board of Trustees:

EXPAND STUDENT CENTER (DINING) PROJECT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the “Expand Student Center (Dining)” Capital Project.

Background: The University's Gatton Student Center was originally constructed in 1938 and Alumni Gym was constructed in 1924. Both were completely renovated, expanded, and combined in 2018 to more than 378,000 square feet. The facility includes student organization spaces, student lounges, student support spaces, recreation, an atrium, residential and retail dining, a bookstore, ballroom facilities, entertainment venues, retail spaces, and administrative support offices. All are heavily used by the University and wider community seven days a week. The Gatton Student Center provides multiple student dining venues but is unable to meet increased demand due to high meal plan participation rates and projected continued student enrollment growth. A separate feasibility study was commissioned from Omni Architects to assess the possibility of expanding the current Champions Kitchen dining area toward the east in order to increase dining capacity by up to 350 seats. This study determined that it would be most cost effective to construct a second and third floor as part of this dining expansion to meet expanding and anticipated student support and other needs. It is expected that one or both of the additional floors will be shelled space at this time. The decision on fit-up will be based on available funding and determination of final design plans.

This recommendation requests approval for the design and construction of this greatly needed dining expansion. The full scope of the project is \$25,000,000, including design costs. The project is to be initially funded with \$999,950 of Agency Funds. Additional funding will be provided by the University’s dining partner, as an amendment to the current Aramark contract. Pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute §164A.575(15), no general fund appropriations will be required for completion of this project and it will be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for approval and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for interim legislative authorization. The Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration will provide regular updates to the Finance Committee during the Project.

Pursuant to Administrative Regulation 8:2, any capital project with an estimated cost of \$1,000,000 or more must be approved by the Board prior to initiation. The total cost of this project is not expected to exceed \$25,000,000.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____



Imagery Source: Pictometry (Spring 2019)
Created by UK Facilities Information Services
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