

Cohn Building Student Commons

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors authorize the President or his designee, to approve spending to design, solicit bids and award contracts for the conversion of two classrooms into a Student Commons area for a project cost not to exceed \$750,000. Funding for this project will be provided through philanthropic support (a successfully completed effort from alumni, friends, faculty, and staff). Reserve carryforward funds will be utilized to cover contingency cost.

Background and Project Description

Located at 5557 Cass Avenue, the Richard Cohn Building is the home of the College of Nursing. Completed in 1959, the building has been carefully maintained and classroom areas have been renovated to support contemporary nursing education. However, the building does not currently provide informal learning space or study space for the nursing students, forcing students to use the hallways and stairwells for study, group work and informal learning. In order to address this need the College will construct a Student Commons where students can meet, work in teams, study effectively and collaborate on projects as they work toward becoming professionals. Learning will be accelerated as students work together in groups, a major focus of the nursing curriculum. This will also allow undergraduates to connect with graduate students, providing them opportunities to learn about different paths in nursing. Funding for the project has been made possible through philanthropic support from alumni, friends, faculty and staff of the college, along with reserved carryforward funds.

The scope of the work of this project includes converting two existing classrooms on the third floor of the Cohn Building into a Student Commons space. The remodeling will provide varied types of seating space: lounge seating, tables and chairs and collaboration space equipped with the latest technology for group collaboration. New audio visual equipment, furniture and interior finishes will be provided to fit out the Student Common.

All contracts for this project will be awarded in accordance with University policies and procedures.

Project Budget

Funding Sources	
Previous Funding	
Pledged Gifts	\$449,281
221841 College of Nursing Discretionary	\$100,719
135526- College Carry Forward Funding	\$200,000
TOTAL Sources	\$750,000
Expenditures Plan	
Design Fees	\$42,500
Construction	\$477,500
Project Management	\$30,000
Contingency	\$200,000
TOTAL Expenditures	\$750,000