

Audiology Clinic Move

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors authorize the President, or her designee, to approve spending to move the Audiology Clinic currently located in the Prentis Building to a retail space in Towers Residential Hall at a cost not to exceed \$1,050,000. This project will be funded from the Reserve for Special Non-Recurring Funds.

Background and Project Description

The Wayne State Audiology Clinic is equipped to provide complete audiologic evaluations to both adults and children at no cost, as well as provide valuable learning opportunities to Wayne State students enrolled in the audiology doctorate program. Since 2019, the clinic has operated out of the basement of Prentis Building, which has proven to be a challenging environment. This project seeks to move Communication Science & Disorder's (CSD) audiology clinic from its present-day location in the basement of Prentis into two vacant retail spaces in Towers Residence Hall along Anthony Wayne Drive.

Following the expiration of WSU's lease in the Rackham Building, the University allocated space in Rands and Prentis to CSD, which included the reassignment of the audiology clinic to the basement of Prentis. The clinic's laboratory space includes approximately 1,200 sq. ft for two sound booths, a hearing aid fitting room, a supervisor office, a meeting space, and a small storage room.

The space in Prentis is not a good long-term home for the audiology clinic for several reasons. The Prentis building has experienced multiple flooding issues in the basement requiring replacement of one of the sound booths. As a public-facing clinic, it has also proven inconvenient for patients to compete for limited parking on Cass Avenue and then navigate to the basement of Prentis for their appointments. Additionally, the recent formation of the "WSU AuD Triumvirate," which includes the University of Michigan in the WSU-HFHS partnership, has led to a doubling of student enrollment and an increase in clinical service loads at the clinic, making its current size inadequate.

Based on the needs of the Audiology Clinic, the new, purpose-built space will include:

- Visibility and accessibility to the public.
- An above-grade environment that is free from or minimizes flood risks.
- Soundproofing treatments.
- Room for two sound booths, a hearing aid fitting room, a vestibular testing room, a collaboration and workspace for graduate research assistants, and a lab storage space.

Submitted by: Bethany Gielczyk, Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs; CFO; Treasurer

Scope

The university has investigated moving the audiology clinic to the vacant ground-level retail space in Towers Residential Hall, otherwise known as rooms 102 (1,490 sq. ft.) and 103 (1,073 sq. ft.). Previously occupied by University Pharmacy and Campus Activities Hub, these spaces are highly visible along Anthony Wayne Drive and directly accessible from the street with multiple nearby parking options.

This build-out will involve renovation work estimated at \$1,050,000. As such, it will impact architectural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. The space will also receive a new selection of furniture, finishes, and equipment.

Funding Source	
Reserve for Special Non-recurring Funds	\$1,050,000
TOTAL Sources	\$1,050,000
Expenditures Plan	
Design Fees	\$127,000
Construction	\$708,000
Project Management Fees	\$15,000
Contingency	\$200,000
TOTAL Expenditures	\$1,050,000

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