

# **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

February 14, 2020

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Committee on Budget and Finance

**From:** Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D.   
President

**Subject:** College of Engineering – Student Activities Building  
*(material change)*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Trustee Committee on Budget and Finance recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to plan for and construct a new co-curricular competitive student activities building.

### **RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby authorizes the Administration to plan for the project entitled "College of Engineering - Student Activities Building" and implement the project as a material change to the landscape pursuant to Board Policy 02-06-01; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby grants a variance to the University Zoning Ordinance to permit an academic land use within the service district.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Program Need:**

The College of Engineering has provided co-curricular activities for more than 20 years, especially in the form of student competition teams. These competition teams provide hands-on, team-based experiences for students that hone both their technical and leadership skills, connect them to key employers, and provide them a significant jump start to their engineering careers. In addition, their involvement in such competitions brings valuable visibility to the University.

As part of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), the college supports Formula SAE and Baja SAE racing teams as well as a separate solar car racing team at a shop on Jolly Road, approximately three miles from campus. This facility is no longer appropriate for the existing program which has doubled in recent years, resulting in overcrowding and inability to provide proper supervision of the activities. Because of the overcrowding,



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the college cannot take advantage of opportunities for new competitions that are often developed by industry and industry associations. Lastly, this off-campus facility limits freshman participation in such competition groups due to the limited travel options to an off-campus site.

**General Description of the Project:**

A new facility is proposed to be located near the corner of Farm Lane and Mount Hope road and would result in a material change to the landscape. This facility will be similar in size and shape to the existing MSU Scene Shop Teaching Lab located nearby. This new facility will provide an on-campus facility accessible by bus and bicycle which will greatly facilitate freshman participation in such valuable co-curricular activities. It will provide expanded space for fabrication, a student design center with computers, and a meeting space for more effective team collaborations. With a more open floor plan, this increased space will also provide opportunities for new competitions.

**Communication Plan:**

Members of the campus community will have opportunities to provide feedback during the planning phase. Any concerns they express will be addressed in the project design.

The Campus Infrastructure Planning Work Group recommends that the Board approve this project as a material change to the landscape.

As construction proceeds, the schedule will be shared with the campus community.

**Preliminary Project Cost Information:**

The budget for the project (including any contingency) is \$4,000,000, which is being funded by gifts to the College of Engineering and/or debt financing with debt repayment from the same source.

Based on cost experience for similar projects and current pricing information, the preliminary project cost estimate is within budget.

Planning and design are expected to begin April 2020, with construction to commence Fall 2020 contingent on finalizing gifts to the College of Engineering.

cc: Board of Trustees, T. Sullivan, K. Wilbur, N. Barr, M. Zeig, B. Quinn, D. Bollman, V. Gore, M. Haas, J. Gaboury, B. Kranz, M. McCabe, J. Mumma, J. Rayis, L. Adams, K. Oosterhoff, C. Leese, L. Senecal, L. Kempel, M. Heil

Planned location



