Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For Meeting of September 15, 2015

OVERVIEW OF CAPTIAL STRATEGY, RIVERSIDE CAMPUS

The University of California, Riverside is actively engaged in transforming the campus to be a national model for high academic achievement, student access, and optimal administrative effectiveness.

The campus will be proposing several projects that will improve the quality of learning and research and address space deficiencies associated with enrollment growth. Between 2000 and 2014, the undergraduate population grew by 64 percent, while faculty increased by only 28 percent, increasing the student-to-faculty ratio to 29:1, one of the highest in the UC system. The campus has embarked on an ambitious plan to hire 300 new faculty by 2020 with the goals of better serving its students, improving the student-to-faculty ratio, and increasing faculty diversity to reflect the campus’ diverse student population.

The forthcoming 2015-25 Capital Finance Plan presents the campus’ capital investment priorities that were informed by a recent space utilization analysis, and the on-going Physical Master Plan Study. Along with UCR 2020, the campus’ strategic plan, these studies provide direction on improving the physical environment to help position the campus to achieve its goals. With projected faculty growth and no new facilities, UCR will be 36 percent below the systemwide average for research space, at 729 assignable square feet (asf) per faculty member. A multi-pronged strategy of increased efficiencies, renovation of existing facilities, leased space, and new facilities will bring the campus closer to the systemwide average of 1,140 asf in research space per faculty member. In step with other campuses’ innovations, the campus will utilize an open and modular design that will promote novel interdisciplinary research and facilitate a more efficient space assignment protocol.

Already the campus is undertaking a strategy to improve utilization of existing research space. These increased efficiencies are expected to provide for 33 percent of the new faculty growth. Renovations to existing facilities will provide research and office space for 30 faculty members, or another ten percent. These include renovations to Pierce Hall that are funded through the Assembly Bill 94 mechanism, as well as completion of shelled-out research space in new medical school facilities as funding becomes available. The campus has examined potential lease space for research purposes within a 40-mile radius, and has determined that only dry labs and research offices are available. This identified lease space would only account for approximately 13 percent of new faculty hires.
The balance of space for UC Riverside’s 300 new hires would need to be provided by three new facilities. Multidisciplinary Research Building 1 will house 50 faculty and account for 17 percent of the new hires. This project will be presented as a companion item. A related facility, Multidisciplinary Research Building 2, will be similar in size and scope and house a similar number of faculty. The third facility is Engineering Building Unit 3. It will be part of the complex for UCR’s Bourns College of Engineering, but in fact will accommodate 30 faculty members across a variety of related disciplines.

With these changes, UC Riverside will have another 250,000 asf of research space, bringing the campus to 1,032 asf of research space per faculty member and in line with the current systemwide average.

The campus’ capital investment program is driven by a broad strategy that builds upon the campus’ strengths in research and teaching. By 2020, this strategy will accomplish the following:

- Increase the range and scale of research to meet and anticipate the challenges of the 21st century, with a focus on multidisciplinary initiatives among the physical, natural, and agricultural sciences;
- Reshape the campus’ enrollment profile, expanding the undergraduate population by 12 percent and graduate population by 54 percent by fall 2020; and
- Expand the faculty by approximately 300 by 2020, advancing research strength and improving student-to-faculty ratios to competitive levels.