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BOARD OF REGENTS

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AGENDA
FACILITIES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
10:20 a.m.

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor
Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Additions to BoR FY 2022-23 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation
- IV. Resiliency Framework Update
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: Darren G. Mire, Chair; Robert W. Levy, Vice Chair; Randy L. Ewing; Charles R. McDonald; Felix R. Weill; Cameron T. Jackson (*student member*); LCTC System Representative; LSU System Representative; SU System Representative; UL System Representative
Staff: Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities and Planning & Disaster Services

Executive Summary

Reports and Recommendations

Facilities and Property

March 23, 2022

III. Additions to BoR FY 2022-23 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation

The University of Louisiana System (ULS) submitted three projects on behalf of Louisiana Tech University (La Tech) that were not included in the original ULS submission. The three projects below represent various strategic priorities of the institution.

(1) Central Steam Generator – Boiler and Switchgear Replacement

La Tech is requesting to amend their capital outlay request to include an emergency project to replace boilers and electrical switchgear in the university's co-generation power plant. Currently, La Tech generates most of the campus' electricity from a gas-fired turbine generator. Exhaust from the generation is used to create steam use to heat 1.6M square feet (SF) of space on the main campus. After converting two chiller plants in 2021, there remains 293,000 SF of space air conditioned by steam absorption. Continued technology changes in air conditioning efficiency have made steam absorption air conditioning no longer efficient and the equipment is no longer competitively manufactured. The university continues to convert to electricity-based air conditioning and has reached the point where it has a surplus of steam which is exhausted into the atmosphere.

This project will install high pressure boilers to replace the gas turbine generator and new electric switchgear to interface with the City of Ruston to improve reliability. The gas turbine generator will be transferred to the State of Louisiana for use by another agency or to sell and off-set a portion of the cost of this project. The equipment conversion is estimated to cost \$3.5M and the existing turbine has an estimated value of \$1M. Once complete this project will reduce operational expenses and increase energy efficiency.

(2) Agriculture and Forestry Wood Projects Education and Research Center

This project will create a new facility to serve as an Agriculture and Forestry Wood Projects Education and Research Center. La Tech has been exploring an unmet need of forestry related industry and business in the region. The proposed new facility will provide the physical resources and multi-discipline intellectual assets to develop, test, prove, and advance innovative commercial applications of trees and forestry related products. The facility will expand the economic impact of Louisiana's forests and advance innovative applications of trees in commercial products. Potential focus areas include structural engineered wood products, pulp and paper manufacturing, emerging areas such as wood energy and control agents, environmental issues and ecological restoration, economic analysis, and supply chain management. The total project cost is \$15M and La Tech has commitments from multiple forestry product companies to contribute \$5M towards the project.

(3) Athletic Academic Center

The final project involves construction of a new athletic academic center and conferencing facility in the north endzone of Joe Aillet Stadium. The new space will serve multiple functions supporting student athletes, alumni, and the campus and community at large. Currently all university student-athletes and professional

advising staff are utilizing very limited space in the basement of the Thomas Assembly Center to meet NCAA and Conference USA academic requirements. The new facility will provide individual and group tutoring rooms, a computer lab, and adequate office space for academic advisors to monitor progress towards graduation. The total project cost is \$12M and La Tech has commitments from private donors to contribute \$6M towards the project cost. The La Tech Foundation currently has over \$4.1M in improvements ongoing to Aillet Stadium that are related to this request but not included in this project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends approval of the additions to the Board of Regents' FY 2022-23 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation submitted by the University of Louisiana System, on behalf of Louisiana Tech University, as presented.

IV. Resiliency Framework Update

Emergent Method, the consulting firm engaged by Regents staff to develop a comprehensive resiliency framework and needs assessment for better responding to and recovering from disasters, will provide an update on the status of the project as of the March 2022 meeting.