

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: School of Public Health  
School of Public Health Buildings Renovation

Action

Requested: Approval of Project and Authorization to Appoint an Architect

Background:

The School of Public Health is at the forefront of national and international developments in public health, and is consistently ranked as one of the nation's top schools. Within and across departments, researchers are tackling some of the world's most critical public health issues. The size of the faculty, staff and student population coupled with the School's research program, has brought into focus the quantitative and qualitative shortcomings of the School's physical facilities.

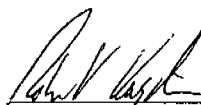
The School is comprised of two buildings, the Henry F. Vaughan Public Health Building (SPH I) built in 1942 and expanded in 1958 and the Thomas Francis Jr. Building (SPH II) constructed in 1971. The total gross square feet of the complex is 296,000. Since SPH II was constructed, the student body has doubled and research has increased nearly threefold. Increasingly sophisticated technology and safety needs for laboratory research and teaching have levied requirements which are unable to be met in SPH I. Compounding the problem, SPH I has never been systematically upgraded. Consequently, the building infrastructure is outdated. Laboratory space is scattered throughout departments contributing to inefficient use of resources and the SPH complex lacks common space for faculty interaction, an important need in an increasingly interdisciplinary environment.

As part of this project we propose to address the infrastructure needs of SPH I, modernize laboratory space, review and reorganize the location of laboratories and departments, and provide for common space needs. We expect the programming phase to begin in March, during which the project scope will be determined. The overall improvements are estimated to cost \$40 million.

An architect selection committee, consisting of representatives from the School of Public Health and the University Architect's Office, requested and reviewed proposals, and interviewed three firms. The committee is recommending the firm of Centerbrook Architects and Planners from Centerbrook, CT, in association with HarleyEllis from Southfield, MI. Centerbrook received the American Institute of Architects' highest honor in 1998, the Architecture Firm Award, for producing distinguished architecture for at least ten years.

We recommend the Regents approve the School of Public Health project and authorize commissioning the firm of Centerbrook Architects and Planners working in association with HarleyEllis for its design.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Kasdin  
Executive Vice President

February 2000

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS ON

FEB 17 2000