

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Undergraduate Science Instruction Center

Action

Requested: Authorization to Appoint an Architect and Approval of Revised Budget

Background:

One year ago, the Board of Regents appointed the SmithGroup and Michael Wilford Architects as the architects for the Walgreen Drama Center and the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center. The buildings were to be built adjacent to one another, perhaps even connected as one building, with the Science Instruction Center atop of the Palmer Drive parking garage and the Walgreen Drama Center between the Power Center and the Power Plant. The undergraduate instruction center would have a large number of classrooms and auditoria, as well as a few wet labs for instruction.

As the project evolved, a fourth floor was added to the undergraduate instruction center. With the recent decision to put the LS&A undergraduate biology instructional program on the additional floor rather than the drama department, the wet laboratory usage of the building has intensified greatly.

With the decision to reevaluate the scope of the Drama Center and the evolution of the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center into a building rich in instruction laboratory space, the team working on the project came to believe that architects with greater experience designing laboratory buildings should work with the SmithGroup, Inc. in carrying forward the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center at this time. We do not disagree with the conclusion.

We wish to minimize risk in assembling the architectural team at this time. Therefore, we recommend that the team of Venturi Scott Brown & Associates, Inc. join the SmithGroup, Inc. to complete the design for the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center. This team has worked together well on other projects, has extensive experience with laboratories, and is demonstrating success in completing buildings consistent with the University's budget and scheduling needs.

To accommodate the previously discussed addition of a fourth floor to the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center, as well as the greater expense of building laboratories, we are now proposing increasing the project budget to \$56,000,000, all of which funding will be on hand once the Pfizer property sale is completed.

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS (

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We recommend the Regents approve the expanded scope, approve the revised budget of \$56,000,000, and authorize commissioning the architectural team of Venturi Scott Brown & Associates, Inc. and the SmithGroup, Inc. for the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Kasdin
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

December 2001