

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: WUOM Relocation to Leased Space Project

Action

Requested: Approval To Proceed with Project

Background:

WUOM currently occupies approximately 6,000 net assignable square feet of space on the fifth and sixth floors of the Literature, Science and the Arts Building (LSA Building), and storage space in the basement. The LSA Building is slated to undergo a complete upgrade as a part of an approved State funded project authorized by Public Act 480 of 1996 and Public Act 137 of 1999 that includes Mason/Haven Halls, Perry School, and West Hall. In July of 1999, the Regents' approved the LSA Building Project and authorized appointment of an architect with project implementation planned in sequence with the Mason/Haven Halls project completion.

Since WUOM will not be able to maintain occupancy within the LSA Building during renovation activity, we have been planning to relocate the station. We have studied several sites and have determined that WUOM lacks sufficient funding to create the appropriate long-term home for the station at this time. Instead, we are recommending that we provide rental space equipped for WUOM to use in the short term while the Vice President for Communications develops a long-term business and operational plan for the University's public broadcasting assets. The plan will consider fundraising opportunities for enhanced digital broadcast facilities and explore the possibility of a new building as the radio station's permanent home. We anticipate no impact on parking needs associated with this renovation of leased space.


We are recommending that we move the station to space that is available under an existing lease in the Argus Building. We are estimating that approximately \$1.6 million in improvements will be required to upgrade the existing space to accommodate high-tech and studio functions. The cost reflects the special requirements of broadcast studios. To the extent possible, equipment and perhaps even studios will be selected that may be moved to a new facility. Funding for the project will be provided from central administration sources.

We recommend the Regents approve the WUOM Relocation to Leased Space Project as described, including lease-hold improvements of \$1.6 million.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS ON

DEC 13 2001



Robert Kasdin
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

December 2001