Subject: Undergraduate Science Instruction Center

Action Requested: Approval of Schematic Design

Background:

In December, 2001, the Regents approved Venturi Scott Brown and Associates / Smith Group as architects for the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center project located on top of the Palmer Drive Parking Structure. As stated in that request, the building will house classrooms for undergraduate instruction in the life sciences and other student-oriented science programs.

At the meeting, the programmatic functions and layout of the space will be presented, as well as the schematic design of the building. Just over one half of the building will accommodate teaching laboratories for the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and interdisciplinary science instructional space and support. The remainder will house the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), the Life Sciences, Values, and Society Program, and undergraduate and graduate Neuroscience programs, as well as support space. In addition, there will be public spaces to create a welcoming environment for student and faculty interaction. The 140,000 gross square foot building will consist of four floors and a penthouse for mechanical equipment all located on top of the Palmer Drive Parking Structure. The location of the building is highlighted on the attached map.

Funding to pay for this building will be provided by Central Administration funds, including $17 million realized from the sale of University land to Pfizer. An increased number of instructional wet laboratories and support space in the building necessitates a slightly larger budget than we had planned. As previously reported to the Board of Regents, the budgeted amounts for this building and other components on the Palmer Drive project, when finalized, will be incorporated into the overall Palmer Drive project budget and tracked accordingly.

We recommend that the Regents approve the schematic design for the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center project as presented at the meeting, and budget of $59.5 million.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kasdin
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

Attachment
April 2002

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS ON
APR 18 2002
Undergraduate Science Instruction Center

Executive Vice President Kasdin commented that the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center is the final segment of the Palmer Drive development. He introduced Mr. Robert Venturi of Venturi Scott Brown and Associates and Victor Cardona from SmithGroup architects to present the programmatic functions and layout of the site plan and the schematic design. Mr. Venturi described the site plan and the exterior of the structure from several angles, especially in relation to the site and surrounding buildings. He commented that the design is in the tradition of the Albert Kahn generic loft buildings found elsewhere on campus, and that the facade is similar to that of the Life Sciences Institute and the Commons Building, except the north elevation would be metal. It was noted that there are a lot of “incidental seating” areas to encourage interaction among students and faculty using the building.

Mr. Cardona reviewed schematic designs for each of the four floors that make up the interior of the building. He pointed out that the laboratory space is flexible and reconfigurable. It was noted that a new parking deck with 1,000 spaces was under construction to accommodate the increased parking needs associated with this and other buildings on the Palmer Drive site.

Regent McGowan asked whether construction of this building would result in fewer options for other building construction in this area in the future. Executive Vice President Kasdin responded that nothing being done on this site precludes use of the site of the Plant Services Building for future construction.

Mr. Venturi commented on what a pleasure it had been to work with Executive Vice President Kasdin on the University’s projects.
Executive Vice President Kasdin thanked Associate Provost Pamela Raymond for her efforts in helping to identify future programmatic and instructional needs for undergraduates in conjunction with this building. He also noted that the latest budget estimate for this project is $61.0 million, as opposed to $59.5 million noted in the Regents Communication. He commented that during his tenure, he has been working to enhance financial controls over building projects and as part of this effort, all of the Palmer Drive projects are being tracked as one bundle.

Regent McGowan moved approval of the schematic design for the Undergraduate Science Instruction Center project as presented, at a budget of $61.0 million. Regent Newman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

It was decided that the conflict of interest items would be considered next, followed by the consent agenda and the remainder of the action agenda, and concluding with the hospitals and health system discussion.

**Purchasing Contract with HealthMedia, Inc.**

On a motion by Regent Newman, seconded by Regent Deitch, the Regents unanimously approved a purchasing contract with HealthMedia, Inc. Because Victor Strecher is both a University of Michigan employee and vice president, chief science officer, and stockholder in HealthMedia, Inc., this contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute.

The following information is provided in compliance with statutory requirements:

1. The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its University Health Service, and HealthMedia, Inc.

2. The service to be provided is an online smoking cessation program, to be conducted from April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2002, at a total cost of $5,000.

3. The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that Victor Strecher, a University of Michigan employee, is vice president and stockholder of HealthMedia, Inc.