

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Student Publications Building Project

Action Requested: Approval of Project and Appointment of Architect

Background:

The Student Publications Building is a historically significant building that was constructed in 1932. The building was originally designed as the headquarters for compiling and printing three student publications - the *Michigan Daily* newspaper, the *Michigan Ensign* yearbook, and the humor magazine *Gargoyle*. Today the building is used for the same purposes, except that publications are now primarily printed off-site. Overall, the building encompasses approximately 14,800 gross sq. ft. During the last 67 years, small portions of the building have been remodeled, but use of the building has never been systematically evaluated even though technology has had a significant impact on production methods. One of the purposes of this project is to review present and anticipated use patterns and to improve the effectiveness of building utilization.

The Student Publications Building lacks basic life safety features such as enclosed stairways. The upper floor of the building is not accessible to people with mobility impairment. Mechanical, electrical and telecommunications systems are outdated. A second purpose of this project is to upgrade the infrastructure of the Student Publications Building.


An architectural selection process for the proposed project has been completed. Based on experience in historic preservation as well as design creativity for this type of project, we recommend the appointment of Finegold Alexander + Associates Inc, of Boston, as architect.

Our first task will be to engage the architect in development of a program and preliminary cost estimate for the project. Funding for the project will be derived from a combination of central administration sources, unit sources and fund raising. We will return to the Regents as more detail is developed.

We propose to complete design by Fall 2000. It will take approximately fourteen months to renovate the building.

We recommend the Regents approve the project and the appointment of Finegold Alexander + Associates Inc as architect.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Robert Kasdin  
Executive Vice President

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS ON

SEP 17 1999

September 1999