

A RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA BUILDING 58 PROJECT AND PROVIDING INFORMATION TO BE USED IN DETERMINING CRITICAL STATE FUNDING ISSUES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whereas, the University of West Florida has experienced substantial growth in the core disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and related programs including physics and computer science at both the graduate and undergraduate levels; and

Whereas, the growth in these programs, all within the STEM disciplines identified by the Board of Governors as being of critical importance to the state, has been enhanced at UWF by provision of the new Building 4 provided by the legislature and the Board of Governors; and

Whereas, the University's Building 58 project has been constituted a UWF top capital project as the existing building has been occupied since 1972 and does not provide adequately safe and appropriate research and laboratory space; and

Whereas, the Building 58 Lab Sciences Annex will greatly enhance the University's ability to serve its students in the wet sciences of biology, chemistry, and clinical laboratory sciences, all within the STEM disciplines identified by the Board of Governors as being of critical importance to the state; and

Whereas, the proposed project will include research laboratories, classroom, and student study spaces, which will comprise 85 percent of the 50,811 gross square feet planned to be located contiguous and connected to the existing Building 58; and

Whereas, following the support and recommendation of members of the Board of Governors Facilities Committee, \$11 million in funding was re-appropriated and allocated in 2015 toward phase I of the Annex (programming, design, planning, site work, and infrastructure) in preparation for the 2016-17 Annex construction phase II (\$8.6 million) and 2017-18 final construction and equipment phase III (\$6.6 million). University staff have collaborated with Board of Governors facilities staff to ensure that the project scope of work has been efficiently programmed including substantial savings on the chiller room component of the project; and

Whereas, the Building 58 Lab Sciences Annex furthers the following BOG Strategic Priorities, Key Performance Indicators and UWF Strategic Plan Goals:

- Increase the number of undergraduate and graduate STEM degrees.
- Increase research activity and external support.
- Strengthen quality and reputation of research.
- Reduction in average time to degree.
- Increase percentage of undergraduate seniors participating in a research experience.
- Enhance student access, progression, and learning and development.

- Distinctive teaching, scholarship, research and professional contributions.

Whereas, twelve percent of all UWF degrees in academic year 2013/2014 were awarded in fields housed in Building 58; and

Whereas, UWF currently has 1,114 Students Enrolled in Biology, Chemistry, Marine Biology, and Clinical Sciences Degree Programs that are housed in Building 58; and

Whereas, more than 4,500 undergraduate and graduate students have enrolled in classes utilizing laboratories in Building 58; and

Whereas, Building 58 provides laboratories critical to UWF's research function and is home to the University's Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation, providing critical water quality information on a statewide basis; and

Whereas, \$8.1 million in research grant funding has been obtained in recent years for programs housed in Building 58, including a NIH grant for a five year program to support underrepresented students in STEM disciplines; and

Whereas, the academic consequences of not funding the Building 58 Lab Sciences Annex project include the loss of practical research experience and slowing progression to graduation for students in critical STEM disciplines, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

That the UWF Board of Trustees declares its support for the Building 58 Lab Sciences Annex;

That the UWF Board of Trustees provides this information to the Florida Board of Governors for their information and use in determining state priorities for allocation of available funding and any increased funding for capitol projects that may become available to the Board of Governors and the reprioritization of the project as a top priority;

That the UWF Board of Trustees respectfully requests the Florida Board of Governors to consider the importance of the Building 58 Lab Sciences Annex to the STEM students, University, and to the furtherance of the educational goals established for the State of Florida.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 15th day of December, 2015.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: _____

Chair

