Marcus Nanotechnology Research Center Building - Update

This unique facility will allow the State of Georgia and Georgia Tech to take a leadership role in the important and rapidly evolving area of nanotechnology. It is the only one of its kind in the southeast and the only one in the United States with a designed capability to do nanotechnology research on organic materials. It will be important for coming developments in areas like nanomedicine.

This is a $94 million project, of which $45 million comes from state funds and $49 million from gifts and non-state funds. Equipment in the building will also cost in the multimillion range and this will be obtained largely from research grants and contributions from industry.

The project was begun in October, 2006, and is on schedule and on budget. Opening date is slated to be in the late fall of 2008.

Hinman Building

This is a proposed renovation of a building in the center of our campus built in 1939. Over the years it has been used for many purposes. Our plan for Hinman in the future is to address an important issue regarding space for our nationally ranked College of Architecture. Recent accreditation visits have cited the lack of adequate space for studios, instructional activities and research for Architecture. This situation has come about as a result of growth of enrollments and research activities in the College of Architecture.

The renovation of Hinman, and the commensurate opening up of space in other buildings as the Hinman space comes on line, will add 42,000 sq ft of new instructional and research space for our College of Architecture.

We are requesting $6.4 million in state funds to complete this $9.0 million project. We have raised most of the needed non-state funds from private gifts. The Hinman project was included in the Governor’s budget and is supported by the Chancellor and the BOR.

Innovative Learning Resources Center (ILRC)

This project was adopted on the Regents long range list of approved capital projects in 2002. As was the practice at the time, the ILRC was placed at the bottom of the long-range list with its recommendation for funding on hold until the projects ahead of it received state funding and were taken off the list. Because of a slowdown of capital funding during the recession, the ILRC has remained on hold until this year. I would note that during this period Georgia Tech experienced one of the largest enrollment growth
rates in the University System of Georgia. During the last decade we have grown by 5,000 students, which has made the need for the ILRC even more pressing.

The ILRC is essential to our campus because it will house new classrooms and science laboratories that are badly needed for our undergraduate students. It will be unique in that all of our foundational science laboratory courses will be taught there. This means that every Georgia Tech freshman and sophomore will be in the building many times each week. To take advantage of this situation, we are going to include all key services needed by undergraduates during their freshman and sophomore years – advising, tutoring, an information commons, and service desks for the co-op and study abroad programs. Our goal is to use this facility to improve success rates of our undergraduate students so that we continue on our path towards higher retention and graduation rates.

The ILRC will be located in the center of our campus and will linked directly into the existing library (see handout). The building will consist of about 230,000 gsf. The total cost of the building is to be $85 million. Of this total we are asking for $60 million in state funding, and will raise the remaining $25 million ourselves. We have in hand over $10 million already. We have already spent $2 million in non-state funds on the project to complete site and project planning. Given that we were encouraged to “be ready” for state funding so the construction of the project would not be delayed, we have taken our process to the point of completing the competition for the architect and design team for final design, and the selected team is prepared to begin when we have funding in hand.

The ILRC was recommended for $50 million in state funding by the Board of Regents and the Chancellor. It was not included in the Governor’s budget because, it was the last project on the recommended list, and its cost exceeded the Governor’s bond cap. Upon learning this, we sharpened our pencils and found that if we were given $10.2 million in state funds, we could keep the project on track, since this sum would allow us to complete the design and undertake site preparations. Thus, it would be ready for completion the next year when the remaining state funding could be added. We believe that the start up funds of $10 million can be accommodated within the Governor’s bond cap.

We have discussed this approach with the Chancellor, the Board of Regents, and the Governor’s Office. Everyone is comfortable with this idea.

In conclusion, let me say that the ILRC project is crucial to Georgia Tech and its efforts to provide the best possible education to its great students. The need for this building is even greater today than it was six years ago when it was placed on the Regents’ long-term capital list because of substantial enrollment growth. It is anxiously awaited by all of our students, faculty, staff and alumni.