

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

PRESENTED BY: Bob Tyler, Chair
Planning and Priorities Committee

DATE OF MEETING: March 15, 2012

SUBJECT: **Multi-Year Capital Plan 2012/13 – 2015/16**

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The Capital Subcommittee first met to consider a preliminary Multi-Year Capital Plan document in September, 2011. A second meeting of the Capital Subcommittee to discuss the draft Plan was held in January 2012, and on February 8, the Plan was presented to the Planning and Priorities Committee. The Multi-Year Capital Plan was approved by the Board of Governors on March 6.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

The Multi-Year Capital Plan provides a high-level summary and projection of capital priorities over the next four years. Capital includes land and buildings, infrastructure, information and communications technology, and equipment. Capital renewal includes deferred maintenance and the replacement of capital assets that are obsolete or that have deteriorated. The RenewUS program is an important means to begin to address the University's deferred maintenance problem, particularly in the core campus area.

Four capital priorities are identified in the Plan: i) establishment of the RenewUS program; ii) development of new, strategic capital projects based on academic priorities identified in the second and third planning cycles; iii) exploration of new and innovative ways to use the University's land base to achieve strategic goals; and iv) ensuring the University's growing distance education and distributed programs are appropriately supported. Common themes among college and school plans for the third planning cycle were the need to expand and renew existing teaching, research and graduate student space to meet current and future requirements, and renewal of aging research equipment and infrastructure. A capital needs assessment, to be completed over the third planning cycle, will provide a comprehensive assessment of the capital needs of planning entities.

As the University's needs related to its physical environment become more complex, requirements for multipurpose space, off-campus delivery of programs and increasingly sophisticated equipment must be balanced against preservation and renewal of an aging infrastructure, hence capital planning is critical to the success of the institution. The

University employs a robust capital planning and prioritization process, which utilizes evidence-based decision making but which can adapt to opportunities and emergencies. A future goal is to make the capital planning process more transparent by describing within the Plan how capital projects are prioritized and funded.

The Planning and Priorities Committee supports the goals and objectives of the Multi-Year Capital Plan and considers it comprehensive and an essential component of the Third Integrated Plan.

ATTACHMENT:

Multi-Year Capital Plan 2012/13 – 2015/16