


MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

October 17, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Trustee Finance Committee

From: Fred L. Poston 

Subject: **Authorization to Plan**
MSU Union - North Neighborhood Engagement Center and
Multicultural Center

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustee Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to plan for the project entitled MSU Union - North Neighborhood Engagement Center and Multicultural Center.

BACKGROUND

Program Need:

The North Campus Neighborhood Engagement Center is temporarily located on the third floor and the Multicultural Center is currently located on the ground floor of the MSU Union. It is important to create a visible and accessible Engagement Center and Multicultural Center that will speak to the goal of intercultural engagement. This Engagement Center provides services to the north campus residential neighborhood and to off campus students. The placement of the Multicultural Center in a more visible and accessible location, with expanded capacity and features, will serve as a beacon to share and celebrate the values of diversity and inclusion of the campus community and beyond.

General Description of the Project:

The planning of this project is anticipated to include creation of spaces that will support the Engagement Center and the Multicultural Center programs. Space on the second floor of the MSU Union is anticipated to house the core functions of the Engagement Center and the Multicultural Center creating a vibrant space for students to gather for cultural, social, and academic activities.



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The anticipated design will include office space, semi-private and private group meeting and study space; integration of art and culture into the design; and multi-purpose space for such program activities as dance practice and cultural presentations. Space on the ground floor (lower level) would be redeveloped for meeting rooms, study and programming space, in part to replace functions currently located on the second floor.

The MSU Union - North Neighborhood Engagement Center and Multicultural Center project is located on the corner of Grand River Avenue and Abbott Road in the north academic district. The location of this project is consistent with the Campus Master Plan and Planning Principles.

Based on an assessment of the factors stated in the Project Planning and Approval process concerning Project Labor Agreements (PLA), the Vice President for Finance and Operations and Treasurer has determined that a PLA would not be required for this project.

Communication Plan:

During the planning phase, the campus community will be given opportunities to provide feedback on the project as it is being designed. Input from the project planning team will be solicited during the design phase. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services is facilitating participation with student groups by hosting a visioning session and design charette led by the project planning team. To encourage on-going student input and feedback, a Facebook page has been set-up. As the project progresses, student input and feedback will remain a high priority.

Preliminary Project Cost Information:

Based on cost experience for similar projects and current pricing information, the preliminary project cost estimate is \$10,000,000. This estimate may change as planning progresses and the project scope is further defined.

The source of funds for the project is expected to be a combination of Auxiliary Funds - Residential and Hospitality Services and the general fund.

cc: R. Flinn, M. Haas, J. Kacos, G. Klein, B. Kranz, B. Latta, K. Lindahl,
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Authorization to Plan Union Building – North Neighborhood Engagement Center

