

June 16, 2023

Senator Rick Girdler  
Representative Deanna Frazier Gordon  
Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee  
Legislative Research Commission  
Capital Annex Room 34  
Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: Ekstrom Library Addition

Dear Senator Girdler and Representative Gordon,

In accordance with provisions of KRS 45.760 (7), I am writing to request authorization to construct an addition onto the Ekstrom Library located on Belknap Campus with a project budget is \$8,000,000.

The expansion will provide additional space for students to study and collaborate, office space, and increase archive space to preserve the history of the university and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The expansion will also provide the opportunity to realign and repurpose connecting spaces to ensure the library meets the needs of the university community.

This project was authorized by the University of Louisville Board of Trustees on April 20, 2023, and the Council on Postsecondary Education on June 9, 2023. Project funding is being provided by donor funds. The university will not use state-appropriated general funds.

We appreciate your support. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Noltemeyer at 852-5699.

Sincerely,



Meg Campbell  
Assistant Vice President  
University Planning, Design and Construction

cc: Dan Durbin, CFO  
Shaun McKiernan (CPE)  
Carla Wright (OSBD)

RECOMMENDATION TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGARDING AN EXPANSION OF EKSTROM LIBRARY

Board of Trustees – April 20, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

The President recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a capital project to expand the Ekstrom Library, pursuant to the board’s Financial Transactions Policy, Section II(b), regarding capital projects estimated at \$500,000 or more.

BACKGROUND:

The Ekstrom Library was constructed in 1981 on the Belknap Campus and has an exterior footprint of 324,614 square feet. The last expansion on the west side of the building started in 2005 and opened in 2007. Several small interior renovations were completed in the last several years in an effort to make the space more accommodating for students, faculty and staff.

The budget for the Ekstrom Library Expansion project is projected at \$8,000,000 with funding being provided by private donations. These donations will be recognized over a three-year period and management plans to finance a portion of this cost to better align cash in/out flows. Approval for that financing will be requested at a future meeting.

This proposed expansion will provide additional space for students to study and collaborate, office space, and increase the archive space to preserve the history of the university and Commonwealth of Kentucky. The expansion will also provide the opportunity to realign and repurpose spaces so the library meets the needs of the university community.

The expansion will take place on the south side of the building, and includes expanding the first, second, and basement floors to extend out to the edge of the original footprint of the building. Expanded space will provide approximately 1,800 square feet to each of the three floors.

Projected Planning and Design Start Date: By or before October 2023  
Projected Construction Start Date: November 2023  
Projected Construction Completion Date: July 2025

BOARD ACTION:

Passed     X      
Did Not Pass \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

    *n*      
Signature on file \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary



## Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

100 Airport Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: 502-573-1555  
<http://www.cpe.ky.gov>

**Aaron Thompson, Ph.D.**  
President

Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee  
Capitol Annex, Room 34  
702 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

June 14, 2023

Re: University of Louisville Interim Capital Project – Ekstrom Library Expansion

Dear Senator Girdler and Representative Gordon,

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on June 9, 2023, and per KRS 164.020 (11) approved an interim capital project for the University of Louisville to expand the Ekstrom Library. The University of Louisville (UofL) will use \$8,000,000 in donated funds to complete this project, which will add 5,400 square feet for study, collaboration, archives, and offices and repurpose space within the existing library.

The UofL Board of Trustees approved this project on April 20, 2023. Board materials stated that the project would be financed over a short period, and funded with private donations. CPE informed UofL that provisions of KRS 45.750 would not allow for this financing arrangement for an interim project. UofL officials asked CPE staff to take the project before the Council with the understanding that private funds would be used for the project, and that there would be no financing component. The Council's approval, therefore, is contingent on the project being funded with private funds.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (502) 892-3039.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shaun McKiernan".

Shaun McKiernan  
Executive Director, Budget and Finance

C: Dr. Kim Schatzel, UofL  
Rick, Gracarek, UofL  
Carla Wright, OSBD

Dan Durbin, UofL  
Kim Noltemeyer, UofL

**TITLE:** Interim Capital Project – UofL Ekstrom Library Expansion

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee recommend the Council approve an \$8,000,000 privately funded interim project at the University of Louisville to expand the Ekstrom Library.

**PRESENTER:** Eric Farris, Council Chair

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### **COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL**

The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the interim capital project request from the University of Louisville during its June 6, 2023, meeting.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

University of Louisville officials requested CPE approval for an interim capital project to expand the Ekstrom Library (currently, about 324,600 total square feet) using \$8,000,000 in private donations. The project will add 1,800 square feet to three floors (basement, first and second) on the south side of the building, and will provide additional space for study and collaboration, offices, and university archives. It will also allow existing space to be repurposed to better meet the needs of the university.

The UofL Board of Trustees approved this project on April 20, 2023. If approved, UofL officials anticipate construction to start November 2023 and to be completed July 2025. State general fund appropriations will not be used for this project, and no funds appropriated for another purpose will be used to complete this project.

House Bill 592 (2018) created a new provision in KRS 164A.575, which allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget as long as the projects are funded with non-general fund appropriations, do not jeopardize funding for existing programs, and are reported by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee. The pertinent section of KRS 164A.575 is provided below:

- (15) Notwithstanding KRS 45.760, the governing board may authorize a capital construction project or a major item of equipment even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
  - (a) The full cost shall be funded solely by non-general fund appropriations;

- (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or re-allotted for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment. Moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
- (c) The institution's president, or designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

The approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 is as follows:

- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action;
- If approved by the Council, projects at KCTCS and KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and subsequently submitted by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review;
- If approved by the Council, projects at EKV, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, UK, UofL, and WKU are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information; and
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, the project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this project was not previously approved by the Council and it was not authorized in the enacted 2022-24 budget, Council approval is now required to authorize this project.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Following Council action, staff will notify the president of UofL, the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee of the Council's recommendation concerning this project.