



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

April 8, 2020

Senator Rick Billinger, Chairman
Joint Committee on State Building Construction
Capitol Building, Room 236 East
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Billinger:

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I write to inform you and the members of the Joint Committee on State Building Construction of our intent to use a portion of the Educational Building Fund appropriated to our office for projects not originally anticipated in our presentation to you last fall.

The Board has been considering the backlog of maintenance projects at the state universities' buildings and how to avoid facility failures. Agreement has been reached that a consistent examination of the status of each mission critical building and how the buildings are being used was necessary prior to seeking a legislative investment to address deferred maintenance.

At your meeting on October 28, 2019, our office and the state universities presented our five-year capital improvement plans, including how we apply the Educational Building Fund to rehabilitation and repair projects at the state universities for eligible buildings. Since that time, the Board and staff have been developing a coordinated plan for the facilities at the state universities to address the deferred maintenance backlog we document every two years, in accordance with KSA 76-7,103. To ensure that our System can present a cohesive plan, backed with data, the Board is considering an allocation from the Educational Building Fund to finance two evaluations of our buildings.

The University of Kansas has for several years contracted with VFA/Accruent for its software product that facilitates an assessment of buildings and their systems (heating, ventilation, plumbing, etc.). This product has given campus administrators with key information in making decisions as to where their limited maintenance dollars should be best deployed. In order to expand this capability to the other campuses and to provide the Board with systematic and consistent building information, staff have worked with the vendor on the scope of work for the other campuses to contract for studies of their buildings.

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Another aspect of assessing the universities' buildings is a systematic review of how the universities are utilizing their facilities. A request for proposals was issued, vendor interviews have been conducted, and the procurement committee has negotiated the selection and finalization of a contract to conduct a review. The selected vendor will conduct a comprehensive space survey of each campus, compiling a space inventory to determine current utilization of campus buildings and make recommendations for instructional and office space needs.

A distribution from the Educational Building Fund will be considered for Board approval at the April 2020 meeting to finance the universities' expenses for this study. The Educational Building Fund distribution would be taken from money currently available in the fund as follows:

University of Kansas	\$349,949
University of Kansas Medical Center	334,338
Kansas State University	839,453
Wichita State University	327,001
Emporia State University	152,949
Pittsburg State University	206,230
Fort Hays State University	<u>220,688</u>
Total	\$2,430,608

Section 158(a) of 2019 House Substitute for Senate Bill 25 appropriated the Educational Building Fund to the Board of Regents for FY 2020. Attached to that appropriation is a provision that reads, in part:

“...Provided, however, That no expenditures shall be made from any such account until the proposed projects have been reviewed by the joint committee on state building construction.”

In accordance with this proviso, this communication is intended to provide your Committee with the opportunity for an initial review until such time when you convene a meeting, at which we will be present and respond to questions your Committee may have about our efforts to oversee the state facilities on our university campuses. We look forward to the opportunity to join you at that meeting.

Sincerely,



Blake Flanders, Ph.D.
President and CEO

cc: Members of Joint Committee on State Building Construction
Shirley Morrow, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes