

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 \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary