

Contact: Jean Friedrich

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**  
**EQUIPMENT PURCHASE – WENGER ACOUSTICAL UNITS**

**Action Requested:** Consider ratification of Executive Director approval of the purchase of Wenger acoustical units for installation in the former theatre space in the University Capitol Center in Iowa City, at an estimated cost of \$2,360,000.

**Executive Summary:** The University of Iowa requests Board ratification of Executive Director approval to purchase Wenger acoustical units for installation in the former theatre space in the University Capitol Center (temporary facilities for the University's School of Music). The Board previously approved the purchase and fit-out of the space (September 2007).

**Description of Equipment**

The University seeks approval for the purchase and installation of Wenger acoustical units (self-contained, sound isolating rooms made by Wenger) to fit-out the former theatre space in the University Capitol Center as temporary facilities for the University's School of Music. The Wenger acoustical units will be purchased and installed for all practice and performance areas.

**Justification of need for Equipment**

As a result of the Iowa River flooding, the University is fitting-out the former theatre space in the University Capitol Center as temporary facilities for the School of Music. Sufficient space with acoustics appropriate to the practice, rehearsal, performance, and study of music are essential to all programs in the School of Music.

The former theatre area provides sufficient space for consolidating some displaced School of Music functions into a more cohesive music facility. All music studio functions currently in the Temporary Arts Facility (trailers), Linn Street Music, Brewery Square, and some faculty offices in the Lindquist Center will be relocated to the former theatre space. The space is suitable for building large rooms with suitable acoustical isolation for chamber music rehearsals, studio classes, Steinway grand piano, and organ practice.

The organ program is currently completely dependent on local churches for classes, practice, and lessons. The Temporary Arts Facility and Lindquist Center spaces must be vacated in summer 2009, and the Linn Street Music and Brewery Square spaces are both too small and not acoustically suitable to house the piano program; these programs must be relocated by Fall 2009.

**Any Known Alternatives to the Equipment Proposed**

Use of the former theatre space for the School of Music is dependent on installing the pre-fabricated, sound-isolated practice rooms, and teaching studios (Wenger acoustical units).

**Estimated Cost and Source of Funding**

The cost of these units is estimated at \$2,360,000. The actual costs will be further refined as the University works with the manufacturer on the specific application. The University will seek state and federal (FEMA) flood assistance grant funding for the purchase and installation of the Wenger units. The University's share of the funding will be from academic building revenue bond proceeds.