Action Requested: Consider recommending to the Board approval of the following actions for the College of Public Health Academic Building, a major capital project as defined by Board policy.

1. Acknowledge receipt of the University’s initial submission of information to address the Board’s capital project evaluation criteria (see Attachment A);

2. Accept the Board Office recommendation that the project meets the necessary criteria for Board consideration; and

3. Authorize permission to proceed with project planning, including the architectural selection process.

Executive Summary: The College of Public Health Academic Building project would construct a new classroom and office building for the College of Public Health, which has experienced dramatic growth and development as an educational unit and research enterprise (FY 2005 grants and contracts awarded totaled more than $37 million) since its establishment in 1999. The College, which recognizes the critical importance of protecting community health, is helping students and society respond to new and emerging threats, as well as other longstanding public health concerns, through its teaching, research, and practice activities.

The College’s faculty and activities are currently housed in 16 different buildings on and off campus, with instructional facilities located in nine different buildings. The University believes that the College is in need of a dedicated building that would provide the appropriate educational facilities, accommodate planned additional growth, and establish an official home for the College. Authorizing permission to proceed with the project would allow the University to move forward with the planning process, including the selection of a project architect.

Details of Project: College of Public Health Academic Building

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<th>Project Summary</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<th>Board Action</th>
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<td>Permission to Proceed</td>
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The University originally planned to house the College of Public Health in a new facility to be shared with health sciences research laboratories (Medical Education and Biomedical Research Facility – Building C); the College of Public Health would have occupied approximately 75 percent of the gross square feet of the building. As reported to the Board with the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plans in September 2004, the University subsequently revised the original scope of the project to include only a free-standing permanent home for the College of Public Health (College of Public Health Academic Building).

Several sites are being considered by the University for construction of the facility, including the current locations of the International Center building (near the Art Building), and Westlawn (on the Health Sciences Campus); a map indicating these two locations is included as Attachment B.
Based upon the Regents FY 2006 – FY 2010 approved capital plan, the anticipated project cost is $38.3 million to be funded by a combination of state appropriations and the sale of Facilities Corporation revenue bonds. The Five-Year Capital Plan for state funding approved by the Board in September 2004 included $18.9 million for the project in FY 2008; the University anticipates that its Five-Year Capital Plan will include a request for funding in FY 2007.

The evaluation criteria for the project are included as Attachment A for Committee members' review.
Since the project meets the Board’s definition of a major capital project, the University has provided the following information in response to the Board’s evaluation criteria.

Institutional Mission/Strategic Plan: The College of Public Health was formally established by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa in 1999. This was the first new College at the University of Iowa in over 50 years. Its faculty and activities are now housed in 16 different sites throughout the University. The College is in need of an academic home that includes classrooms and conference rooms, student facilities, offices for primary faculty, and administrative functions.

The proposed facility will serve the organization’s mission and strategic plan by: 1) providing an academic home that brings faculty and students together, 2) encouraging interdisciplinary work and integration, 3) providing a gathering place for the Public Health community and a focus for the College’s important service mission to Iowa, 4) allowing for anticipated and planned departmental growth, and 5) creating a physical identity for the College.

Other Alternatives Explored: Originally, the Health Sciences Campus Master Plan called for the establishment of a combined College of Public Health home and Biomedical Research facility. Further analysis of programmatic needs and site selection options, along with a more intensive long range planning effort, has demonstrated the significant advantages of establishing a free-standing permanent home for the College of Public Health. A separate research facility will be constructed at a time when the needs and the internal financing opportunities make that possible.

In August 2004 the University apprised the Board in the five-year capital planning process that this rethinking was underway and that a more flexible concept would be brought to the Board for its consideration.

Impact on Other Facilities and Square Footage: The University will identify the optimal site for the new facility. Several sites will be considered, including sites currently occupied by Westlawn and the International Center. Older facilities on these sites may be demolished and functions transferred. The study will identify spaces to house displaced functions subsequent to the College of Public Health’s relocation.

Financial Resources for Construction Project: A combination of state appropriations and revenue bonds supported by gifts and earnings is proposed. The state appropriations request is $18.9 million in FY 2007. The total cost of the project is expected to be about $38.3 million.

Financial Resources for Operations and Maintenance: State funding, tuition revenue, indirect cost recoveries (research component) and reallocations with the General Education Fund will be used to support the operation and maintenance of the building.

External Forces: This is a time of dramatic growth and development, not only for the College of Public Health, but also for the field of public health in general. From the terrorist attacks that occurred on and after September 11, 2001, to outbreaks of new and emerging infectious diseases, events continue to highlight the interdependent nature of the modern world and the critical importance of protecting health at the community level. Through its teaching, research, and practice activities, the College of Public Health is helping students and society respond to new and emerging threats, as well as other longstanding public health concerns such as air and water quality, aging, cancer, health care quality and services, obesity, tobacco, and substance abuse.