

Contact: John Nash

REGISTER OF UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

Actions Requested: Recommend the Board approve the proposed:

1. Permission to Proceed with Project Planning for the **UNI Court Practice Facility** project.

Executive Summary: The University of Northern Iowa requests Board approval of Permission to Proceed with Project Planning to build the new 18,000 to 22,000 square foot court practice facility to be shared between men's and women's basketball, and volleyball. The estimated project budget of \$8 million to \$10 million would be funded by Athletics Department Operational Funds and Gifts.

Background: A new stand-alone facility would incorporate all the UNI men's and women's basketball and volleyball programs space needs on campus. The men's and women's basketball and volleyball programs are currently housed in the McLeod Center, a single-court performance venue. Supplemental practice space has also been utilized in the Wellness Recreation Center. They have coordinated court time for practices with each other while coordinating schedules with the wrestling program.

This current practice arrangement is less than ideal in terms of scheduling conflicts for sharing space with the UNI basketball, volleyball and wrestling teams. There is no single, dedicated practice space. When comparing UNI's practice facilities to peer institutions and considering the enhanced recruitment potential, this project has become a priority for UNI Athletics.

The proposed new practice facility would not only house additional practice courts, but support spaces such as strength and conditioning space, training room, lockers, showers and restrooms, offices, and general storage. All spaces would be shared appropriately and equally within men's and women's programs.

The best most cost-effective site would be selected through the design process. Site considerations would include:

1. proximity to the current performance venue, the McLeod Center,
2. proximity to existing utilities and parking, and
3. potential for high visibility of the athletic programs in the UNI community.

There are multiple existing sites on campus that would be considered to house the court practice facility, either through a renovation or addition to an existing building. Due to the court's specific size, any existing space or addition would need to be quite large with high ceiling space. An outcome of design may be that constructing a new stand-alone facility would be the most cost-effective approach.