

Contact: Brad Berg

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RESIDENCE HALLS – CAPACITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Action Requested: Receive an oral report from the University updating the Board on progress in expanding student housing capacity and improving the academic experience within student housing.

Executive Summary: The University is progressing with the planning of a new residence hall for which the Board authorized permission to proceed with project planning in June 2010. The current plan includes a first phase that will construct a 450 bed residence hall. The residence hall will include two different styles of room – a “pod” configuration for first year students who participate in Living Learning Communities (LLC), and a “cluster” configuration primarily for returning students. The hall is scheduled to be completed for occupancy in the fall of 2014.

Each pod will house 24 first-year students and will have living/meeting areas and a study room with smart classroom technology. The “LLC pods” will serve a number of purposes. These communities are designed to have a strong positive impact on students’ transition to the University and, ultimately, student retention. The communities will be designed to combine living and academic interests together in one setting.

Clusters are suites that will house 6-8 students in four rooms (approximately 40 students per floor) with common social and study areas on each floor. The “cluster” portion of the facility will provide a different and attractive housing experience for students who choose to remain in the residence halls. Students currently living in leased buildings such as Building 3 at the Lodge and Centerstone may choose to live in these clusters.

Demolition of a section of Quadrangle Hall will be required prior to the construction of the first phase residence hall. This demolition project will result in the loss of 47 beds to the residence hall system. In addition to student rooms, other portions of the building to be demolished include a lounge, computer lab, former dining hall, vacant offices, and storage space for equipment and excess furniture.

Initial estimates for demolition and phase 1 construction costs are \$42 million. Future Board actions (including schematic design and budget) will be requested through the capital register. The residence hall system will need additional revenue to support increased debt due to construction. Rates throughout the residence hall system will be proposed each year to include normal inflation as well as supplemental costs to expand and advance housing to promote student success and greater choices for students.

Future phases include a Learning Center serving all residence halls in the west neighborhood and another residence hall of approximately 400 beds which the University intends to initiate shortly after completion of the first phase.