IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY - THE KNOLL MODIFICATION PROJECT

Actions Requested: Consider approval of the revised project description and budget ($730,998) for The Knoll Modification Project.

Executive Summary: At its October 2013 meeting, the Board approved two projects totaling $205,000 for improvements to The Knoll. Both projects were intended to support various events and educational activities that occur at The Knoll. The grounds and first floor of The Knoll are primarily used for University supported events. Over the course of a year, several thousand individuals attend events there. As predominantly public space, the University is responsible for maintaining this area.

During the project design phase, it was determined that it would be best to also replace the public entrance stairs and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp at the front entry, implement changes to the existing deck with a four-season porch, and replace additional sidewalks around The Knoll.

The University requests approval of a revised project description and budget ($730,998, an increase of $525,998) for The Knoll Modification Project. The project will be funded by gifts to the ISU Foundation specifically designated to this project; no general university funds including state appropriations or student fees would be utilized.

Details of the Project: The Knoll is the University president’s residence and has been a campus landmark for over 115 years. The front public entry stairs are in poor condition and would require significant renovation. This project would replace those stairs. The adjoining ADA ramp would also be replaced to work with the new stair layout and grade, have less slope, negating the need for handrails/side walls, and provide a better overall aesthetic to The Knoll.

This project would replace the existing deck with a four-season porch that ties into the front entry and the garden room. The four-season porch would be able to be used year-round for public events. French doors between the garden room and the four-season porch would allow both spaces to act as one large public space. South of the garden room, there would be a new deck for outdoor public events. The roof of the garden room would be modified to align with the roof of the new four-season porch. Some finishes would also be updated to match original finishes.

The existing sidewalks around The Knoll would be replaced to minimize tripping hazards, improve access to the back for public events, and work with the layout of the new four-season porch and deck.