



Executive Report

09/28/2012

Sophomore Transformational Experience Report

TO Delegate Body

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THE PROBLEM

Ohio State is seeking to raise its retention rates for sophomores. They're also seeking to relieve the housing market for students of its excess demand.

APPROVED SOLUTION

A comprehensive "second year experience" that seeks to not only enrich sophomores lives through additional targeted support and services, but also through the proposed "experiential stipend" of \$2000 that can be used, with an assigned advisors approval, for travel overseas, internships, conference presentations, lab work, etc.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST & WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

The Board of Trustees on Friday, August 31 approved \$396 million for the project. It entails tearing down several buildings currently existing in the North Campus district (bounded by Lane Ave and Woodruff Ave to the north and south, High Street and the Jesse Owens North Building to the

east and west), expanding several buildings located on the Lane Ave side of the district and building several new buildings with varying heights.

THE PLAN WILL DO SEVERAL THINGS

1: Added much needed programming space for not just undergraduates, but also graduate students;

These new public spaces will be both outdoor and indoor, and be flexible in terms of what can occur there. By no means is this a "sophomore exclusive" area.

2: Make North Campus more welcoming to not just students but also faculty and staff;

Most undergraduate students at OSU do not interact regularly with faculty outside of the classroom, and this north campus district seeks to help aid in getting students more involved with faculty outside the classroom.

3 Relieve the pressure on the housing markets directly east and north of campus, and even somewhat south; Currently there is a 99%

occupancy rate in those districts, and while privately held, there is a large body of research that suggest that the 99% occupancy rate is not indicative of a healthy neighborhood where fair competition for quality occurs. This will move the occupancy rate towards a more favorable 95%.

4: Reinforce the campus neighborhood by bringing more students onto campus. By bringing more students on to campus, you create even more opportunities for students to interact.

5: Increase the retention rate for second years. Currently OSU is on a mission to become one of the best universities in the nation, not just for undergrads, but also for us graduate students. Since both pieces are interlocked here because of the schools public mission, increasing the retention rate is a primary priority of this plan. Evidence shows that students who live on campus for two years have a higher graduation rate in four years and six years. Furthermore, these students are also more likely to donate back to their alma mater.

6: Provide students with a fund from which they can expand their personal experiences. Many students at Ohio State are given opportunities to participate in a “transformative experience” however not all of them have the means to do so. This \$2000 stipend will allow students to travel during the newly formed “May-mester” common at other schools.

7: Remove Curl Drive. The project will remove Curl Drive, which opens opportunities for new green-spaces and public spaces.

ADDITIONAL IMPACTS

Furthermore here are some statistics from the project about what is going on and how the North Campus will change: (1) 2.0 Acres of new outside common space (+300%), (2) 38,350 square feet of interior common space (+207% per bed), (3) 11.1 Acres of green common space (+106%), (4) 7.8 Acres of Tree Canopy Cover (+30%) (many of the plans for buildings have been altered to minimize current tree loss).