Board of Trustees  
December 15, 2015

Proposed Final Plan Approval and Authorization to Expend Funds, Residence Hall, Penn State Brandywine

Proposed Final Plan Approval and Authorization to Expend Funds, Student Union & Dining Building, Penn State Brandywine

Proposed Final Plan Approval and Authorization to Expend Funds, Student Apartment Building, Penn State Abington

Both Penn State Brandywine and Penn State Abington are located in the Philadelphia market, which is critical to the University. The service areas of these campuses have historically delivered a sizeable share of the University’s first-year Pennsylvania applicants. In fall 2013, 38% of first-choice Pennsylvania applicants to the University were residents of the service areas of Abington and Brandywine. Forty-two percent of total first-choice Pennsylvania applications to University Park come from these combined service areas.

Two independent studies done by external consultants have confirmed that a market for on-campus living exists at both of these locations. Their analyses took into account a number of critical factors.

Based on Pennsylvania Department of Education enrollment projections, the combined service areas of Abington and Brandywine are projected to enroll 28,000 high school seniors by 2021, the most of any region in the state.

In addition to being able to draw students from the population centers surrounding Philadelphia, both campuses have attracted a growing number of first-choice, out-of-state and international baccalaureate applications, a twenty three percent increase in applications since 2009.

Consultants also commented on the availability of a strong public transportation system in the area, which is conducive to on-campus living.

It is important to note the higher education environment in which Abington and Brandywine exist. Other than community colleges, all peer colleges and universities but one have on-campus housing. In such a competitive market, Abington and Brandywine are at a disadvantage by not being able to offer University-managed housing.

An investment in residence life facilities at Abington and Brandywine will help them to hold their own among the other institutions in the region and help them to grow by enhancing their ability to attract international and out of service area students.

The University intends to build a 258-bed residence hall at Penn State Brandywine. The layout will feature two person rooms with shared private bathrooms, similar to recently completed Chase Hall at University Park. In order to support all students at Penn State Brandywine, the University intends to build a new 31,000 square foot student union. Programs in the union will include dining services, meeting rooms, bookstore, recreational space, wellness center, lounge areas, and student affairs.
The University also intends to construct a 402-bed apartment-style complex for the Abington campus on a University-owned parcel about a half mile from campus. A campus shuttle will transport students from the site to campus at frequent intervals. The site is off campus with dining options nearby and each apartment will be equipped with a kitchen. Each unit will hold four to eight students with a bathroom for every four students.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the final plans for the Residence Hall at Penn State Brandywine, as designed by the joint venture of Barton Malow of Baltimore, Maryland, and EDIS of Malvern, Pennsylvania, are approved.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That authorization to expend funds to accomplish the project is approved in the amount of $31,500,000.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the final plans for the Student Union and Dining Building at Penn State Brandywine, as designed by Stantec, Inc. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, are approved.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That authorization to expend funds to accomplish the project is approved in the amount of $19,600,000.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the final plans for the Student Apartment Building at Penn State Abington, as designed by SMP Architects of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, are approved.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That authorization to expend funds to accomplish the project is approved in the amount of $50,600,000.