



Student Government

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government Legislative Council

January 23, 2014

80 LCR 04 Capital Construction

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A Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Higher Education Capital Construction Adhering to the Prioritized List Outlined by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education

Resolution History

The 2013 College Construction Report compiled by College Planning and Management exemplifies how Colorado is part of a region that ranks low on capital construction funding levels. As described in the report, national higher education construction spending has significantly decreased in the last few years; 2012 had construction costs of \$9.735B, more than \$1B less than 2011 and the lowest level since 2001.

Colorado is part of Region 10, which includes: Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Region 10 construction to be completed in 2013 is estimated to be \$587,987,000 which is staggeringly lower than the national region leader at \$1,362,001,000, a region consisting of California, Arizona, Hawaii, and Nevada. Additionally, while many other regions consistently spend their funds on new buildings, Region 10 is one of the leaders focused on additions and renovation spending.

Although many students and community members find construction to be disruptive or a poor use of tuition dollars an article from the American Council on Education points out that “new facilities will improve learning environments and lead to greater student success.” Another article from Building Design + Construction suggests that “much of a student’s success is tied to socialization [rooted from increased infrastructure] and having community space to get to know and interact with peers.” New buildings and study spaces will allow students to flourish and expand on their academic endeavours.

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has prioritized the 33 capital construction requests from Colorado institutions of higher education. A memo to the Capital Development Committee outlines the ways in which the CCHE assigns prioritization:

CCHE’s Capital Assets Sub-Committee, consisting of three Commissioners, is responsible for prioritizing the projects that are submitted to the Department of Higher Education by the institutions. CCHE as a whole then reviews the priority list. For the FY 2014-2015 prioritization, the Commission used a scoring system to rank the projects based on the Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting’s (OSP) prioritization criteria and governing board priority.

Of those 33, two are statutory Certificate of Participation programs. The current proposed request for capital construction from the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSP) includes \$34.7 million (including \$13.3 million in state capital construction funds) for the UCCS Visual and Performing Arts Project and \$22.8 million in state capital construction funds for the Auraria Library Renovation. These two projects are ranked as the 10th and 5th priorities respectively. A memo from the University of Colorado Office of the Vice President for Budget and Finance and Chief Financial Officer notes that, “Amanda Bickel from the JBC [Joint Budget Committee] staff noted that the OSP list did not follow the CCHE priority order and that Auraria and UCCS projects were not the top two projects on the CCHE list.”

Resolution Summary

University of Colorado Student Government would like to express our support for further funding for higher education capital construction projects and encourages state legislators to continue to look for ways to increase funding for such projects.

Should this resolution pass, its authors, sponsors, and members of the CUSG pledge to

publicize its benefits and support to the CU Board of Regents, our elected officials, and the public at large in their decision to support further funding for capital construction for institutions of higher education in the state of Colorado.

As student leaders, we have a responsibility to fight for what will benefit our fellow students, and state funding for higher education capital construction projects has a direct impact on the ability of our universities to remain competitive.

Whereas, CU Boulder students and CU Student Government are in support of funding for higher education capital construction projects in Colorado;

Whereas, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has a prioritized list of capital construction projects for all state colleges and universities;

Whereas, increased funding for capital construction has the potential to help the state of Colorado become a national leader in higher education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the University of Colorado Student Government that:

Section 1: It is the view of the CUSG that more funding should be given to capital construction projects for higher education in order to improve our states universities

Section 2: The CUSG encourages any increases in funding for higher education capital construction to be used to follow the priorities outlined by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education

Section 3: Upon passage, this resolution will be distributed to the student body, Board of Regents, CU Boulder administration, Joint Budget Committee of the State of Colorado, media, and other student governments at higher education institutions in the state of Colorado.

Section 4: This resolution shall take effect upon passage by the legislative council and upon either obtaining the signature of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without action by the Tri-Executives.

Vote Count

01/23/2014	Amended to correct spelling	Acclamation
01/23/2014	Passed on 1st reading	Acclamation
01/30/2014	Passed on 2nd reading	Acclamation



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