

April 23, 2021

Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Hal Sadofsky and I am the Divisional Dean of the Natural Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon. Immediately before this role, I spent six years as the head of the Mathematics Department, much of which is housed in University (formerly known as Deady) Hall. I have taught in University Hall for 20 years, had my office there for most of that time, and I hope you can fund the UO's Heritage Renovation Project at \$58.5 million to provide desperately needed renovations.

These building are the oldest public academic buildings in the state and National Historic Landmarks, and of course the founding buildings of the University of Oregon and the birthplace of public higher education in Oregon. Remarkably this pair of buildings continues to touch the education and training of a staggering percentage of students who move through the university. This includes Math Ph.D. students who fill college teaching jobs across the state (and country), Math and Computer Science undergraduates who provide a big chunk of the workforce for Oregon's Silicon Forest, and directly or indirectly all the majors that require some math courses along the way.

The Heritage Project houses UO's core STEAM programs—math, literary arts, and performing arts, and each year 7,000 students attend classes and perform in Heritage buildings. Thousands more take classes from instructors housed and working in these two building.

As a professor who 'lived' and taught extensively in University Hall, I'm intimately familiar with the need for renovations to this building.

-outdated heating (and no cooling) mean that there are huge temperature fluctuations, especially in the heating systems where rooms can be in the 50s or up in the 80s on the same day. This is costly for energy (I've seen windows wide open on a cold winter day) and does not provide a productive learning and teaching environment.

-we teach and work in summer too, and I've seen sensitive students simply have to leave 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classrooms in spring and summer when temperatures on that floor went into the 90s. A few years ago, a faculty member walked into their office to discover their whiteboard shattered due to the high temperature.

-we do have elevators, but many rooms have fixed inadequate desks and aisle sizes making them inaccessible to students or teachings with assistive devices.

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-I know disaster resilience is an important consideration for all of us. University and Villard Halls are desperately in need of critical seismic, fire, and life safety upgrades. Funding for this project would provide these life-saving renovations, and ensure that future generations are able to experience the birthplace of public higher education in Oregon.

As you consider which projects to fund, I hope you will be impressed both by the need for this deferred maintenance, by the place of these buildings as the workhorse of STEAM education, and by the value of preserving our state's heritage while investing in the future.

Sincerely,



Hal Sadofsky  
Divisional Dean for Natural Sciences