TRANSFORMING THE L&S LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Background: The College of Letters & Science (L&S) is the largest of UW-Madison’s 13 schools and colleges. With more than 20,000 students, 39 academic departments and schools, more than 120 undergraduate and graduate majors and 73 interdisciplinary research centers and institutes, L&S produces well-rounded, critical-thinking students ready to tackle challenges in business and society. More than 4,000 students earned an L&S degree last year, joining the ranks of 220,000 L&S living alumni.

As the foundation of a UW educational experience, nearly two-thirds of all undergraduate credit hours come from L&S. Unfortunately, the Humanities Building — one of campus’ biggest buildings and a primary home for many L&S courses — is in dire condition and is failing to support student needs. Its many defects and deficiencies make it inadequate for modern learning today and into the future.

The Humanities Building can no longer effectively support student and campus needs

- The Humanities Building is one of the largest classroom and office buildings on campus. More than 70,000 credits were taught in its classrooms last year covering 60 different departments and thousands of students. The coursework taken in its classrooms are the foundation for many UW majors, from History to Computer Science, to Engineering and Business.

- The building is in terrible shape and will continue to deteriorate. Water damage is widespread. Concrete is degrading. Reinforced steel is exposed and rusting. Windows are leaking. Handrails do not comply with current code requirements. Classrooms have minimal AV support and limited options for active learning.

- Deferred maintenance is conservatively estimated at $70 million. Even if these issues were addressed, the building would remain substandard relative to current building code.

Learn More: budget.wisc.edu
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PROJECT NEED

The new building provides a much-needed reinvestment in state-of-the-art learning spaces for UW students

• Very few general assignment classrooms have been built on campus since 1972. New classrooms are needed to support increases in undergraduate enrollment, enhanced student engagement, and improved student success outcomes.

• Employers overwhelmingly endorse the broad learning and preparation L&S students receive. It’s why SuccessWorks, L&S’s career center, has expanded to accommodate talent demands from major national and Wisconsin-based employers.

• An investment in learning environments has been shown to positively impact student performance, vital to preparing students for the workforce.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Request: Build a new L&S Academic Building at the corner of Johnson and Park Streets to better serve the educational needs of a growing undergraduate population.

• Provides 1,800 seats in 19 classrooms to support a growing student population.

• Creates classrooms that support active learning, modern technology, and collaborative learning – elements proven to boost educational engagement and outcomes.

• Brings together previously dispersed departments to maximize collaboration, teaching support, and research opportunities. This allows us to better leverage grant funding.

• Enhances all students’ educational experience with several new state-of-the-art lecture halls and classrooms of various sizes.

Request: $88.44 Million ($65.36 million GFSB, $23.08 million gifts)