



Regents Approve Moving Forward with Demolition, Site Preparation

2/17/2006 — An official groundbreaking ceremony targeted for this fall.

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—This fall returning students and alumni will discover a dramatically different Stephen M. Ross School of Business campus, the result of an accelerated fundraising, design and construction process that promises to produce a world-class new building by 2008.

To accommodate the construction, Davidson Hall, Assembly Hall and the Paton Accounting Center building on the western half of the campus will be razed after students leave at the end of April.

The University of Michigan Board of Regents today approved the sending out of early bid proposals for the project, allowing the Ross School to move forward with demolition and site preparation for its new 270,000-square-foot building. A year ago February the Regents approved the school's plan for a \$145 million state-of-the art facility and the hiring of Kohn Pedersen Fox of New York City as project architect. Last October, the Regents approved a schematic design for the building, which is expected to be completed by fall 2008.

Since the Sept. 9, 2004, announcement of a history-making \$100 million gift by Stephen M. Ross, BBA '62, for facilities and endowment, the Ross School has been on a fast track to replace the aging half of its physical plant with the best business school facilities in the world, without disrupting normal operations.

Although University officials have said financing a portion of the building is a possibility, the new facility will be funded primarily through private support. Of the Ross gift, \$75 million is earmarked for the building. The school had to raise at least \$40 million in addition to the Ross gift to break ground and continues to solicit support for the project.

"We had faith in our alumni and they came through. They have been as generous in their support as one possibly could hope," said Dean Robert J. Dolan. "We also are grateful for the support we have received from the sound professional management team led by the Office of the Associate Vice President for Facilities and Operations and University Architecture and Engineering Operations."

Graham Mercer, assistant dean for strategic planning and special projects, said as part of the demolition, abatement procedures will take place in Davidson Hall in March and April. Other construction materials — air conditioners, lighting fixtures, wood products, ceiling tiles, structural steel and some carpeting — will be reused or recycled, Mercer added.

The demolition process will continue through the spring and summer months with an official groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility targeted for this fall.

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