

Business Affairs
Office of the Vice President

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August 10, 2015

Gail Hansen De Chapman, Chair
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
PO Box 110410
CAMPUS

Dear Ms. Hansen:

After reviewing the minutes of the University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (LVLC) meeting held May 14, 2015, please note the following:

I would first like to thank you for your input regarding the NEXUS Engineering Addition plan. As you know, this project is an important strategic priority not only for the College of Engineering but also for the university and its ability to advance the education of its students, as well as the state's economic development. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

In June 2015, the Florida Legislature approved \$6 million for the NEXUS project. While that is less than the \$25 million the university requested, historic precedent gives us good reason to believe the Legislature will provide the balance of the funding during its next regular session beginning January 2016.

In order to prepare for the earlier-than-usual legislative start date, and to avoid the possibility of construction cost increases, we have decided to move forward with the project.

As you will recall, four design schemes were discussed during the committee meeting. Schemes A and B place the NEXUS building too close to the Reitz Union and do not comply with the Campus Master Plan. Scheme W7 Option 1, while better in terms of proximity to the Reitz Union and Master Plan compliance, fails to provide the synergy crucial to the building's success.

After further discussion with the College of Engineering, we have selected Scheme W7 Option 2. This design, as you will also recall, requires the removal of approximately 35 trees, including five heritage trees. Per the committee's recommendation, we will provide 6:1 mitigation for each heritage tree and either 2:1 or 4:1 mitigation for the remaining trees, depending on their size. Also per the committee's wishes, mitigation funds will be applied toward implementing part of the Reitz Lawn Master Plan. The committee will be given an opportunity to review the landscape plans for the NEXUS Engineering Addition site. We will take into account the committee's expressed desire to have input on the site landscaping, as well as how the site might accommodate the tree mitigation efforts.

In addition, the university will hire on retainer an independent arborist to be called upon for consultation on future projects in which significant tree removal is a possibility.

Again, thank you for your consideration and thoughtful input regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curtis Reynolds", written over a printed name.

Curtis Reynolds
Vice President for Business Affairs

cc: Charlie Lane
Erik Lewis
Committee Members