GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION PROJECT

Urgency of Need
The proposed project addresses several areas of need in the Extended Studies Building, including: major electric and fire suppression system deficiencies, which have become more apparent over the last year, to avoid potential injury to occupants; adds an elevator to the building, currently without one, and which has important classrooms on the second floor, making all spaces accessible by all students; and creates a permanent home for the Graduate School of Education at the time when the School will be displaced by the School of Business Administration project, approved during the previous legislative session. The addition of office, classroom, and student support spaces will also help avoid the financial costs of leasing space for the Graduate School of Education.

Nature of the Request
Portland State University respectfully requests the following for inclusion in a capital budget bill for consideration in the February 2014 Legislative Session: that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve $14 million in Article XI-Q bonds and $3 million in Article XI-G bonds for the renovation and expansion of an existing PSU building, the Extended Studies Building (XSB). Additional funding would include $3 million from other sources including but not limited to private donations. This $20 million project will provide critical life safety improvements, significantly improve accessibility in a building currently without an elevator, decrease the campus’s deferred maintenance backlog, help the state achieve its 40-40-20 goal, and accommodate an urgent need to create a new home for the Graduate School of Education (GSE).

The XSB was built in two phases in 1957 and 1964 and is now in very poor condition. The building has major electric and fire suppression system deficiencies along with a significant amount of deferred maintenance. Risks of continuing to occupy the building without significant improvement include contamination of the city’s water supply and a greater likelihood of damage and injury in the event of a fire. The building is three stories and has offices and classrooms throughout the building, yet does not have an elevator. PSU accommodates a higher percentage of students with disabilities than any other OUS institution, and it is imperative that all of its buildings are accessible to all students. This project will address all of the building’s deferred maintenance and improve its safety and accessibility significantly.

The project will include a renovation of 30,246 square feet of space and an addition of approximately 38,000 SF to fully accommodate the GSE, an urgent programmatic need. In addition to creating a new home for GSE, the project will modernize spaces for Black Studies, Indigenous Nations, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Graduate Studies (existing occupants), and upgrade seven general pool classrooms. With the legislature's support and approval, this renovated and expanded facility will soon be renamed the Graduate School of Education Building. The project will allow GSE to build upon its long history of success of educating and training current and future teachers, counselors and school administrators across the state.

Background
During the 2013 Legislative Session, the School of Business Administration project was approved, a $50 million project funded with Article XI-Q bonds ($30 million), Article XI-G bonds ($10 million) and gifts or other funds ($10 million). This project requires the Graduate School of Education (GSE) to move from their current home adjacent to the School of Business to accommodate this important project, and ground breaking is scheduled for January 2015. The Neuberger Hall project, which was intended to include a new home for the GSE, was not approved in the last
legislative session. There continues to be an urgent need to create a new home for GSE. It has been determined that a renovation and expansion of XSB is a more cost effective way to accommodate GSE while also addressing significant deferred maintenance, accessibility and safety needs on campus.

PSU intends to seek legislative approval for a replacement or renovation of Neuberger Hall in the 2015 session, a much more significant project than the GSE project currently being requested. Neuberger Hall is the building at PSU in poorest condition and with the greatest needs for improvement. Additionally, it is 100% occupied by departments and uses that have expansion needs. By accommodating GSE in an expansion of the XSB building, Neuberger Hall will be able to be retained for many if not all of its existing occupants and uses: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences departments, parts of the School of Art and Design, student services and general pool classrooms. These departments and uses will be able to be more effective in an extremely efficient state-of-the-art academic building.

PSU is committed to meeting the immediate need of accommodating GSE in as cost effective a manner as possible, but also in a manner that is consistent with our stewardship responsibilities relative to the Park Blocks, and that supports our sustainability values in terms of reusing and repurposing existing space. PSU has more deferred maintenance than any campus in OUS (over $160 million within E&G space according to a study conducted by Sightlines in 2012) and over twice the amount per square foot than the average across the other institutions. Additionally, PSU accommodates over 20% more students and employees per square foot than all other OUS institutions. Since 2001, student FTE has increased 46% while the amount of E&G space has only increased by 28% during that time. A major renovation of XSB now and an even more significant one of Neuberger Hall in 2015 will go a long way in addressing the significant backlog of deferred maintenance at PSU and help better accommodate the density of students these facilities serve.

The proposed project will turn a nondescript building along the park blocks into a modern education resource with modernized general pool classrooms, the necessary space for GSE to meet its mission and improve its programs, and renovated space for important departments who serve diverse and traditionally underserved populations. The proposed project will greatly improve an existing building and increase access and safety for current and future students, while adding an additional 38,000 square feet of space to accommodate GSE programs, classrooms, labs, student study space, advising, faculty, and staff. This central location for GSE will accommodate their current and future needs and will facilitate their coordination with other schools and colleges on campus.

GSE is the largest graduate education school in Oregon serving a diverse set of teacher education needs throughout the state. Through traditional education programs, online classes and professional development, it serves educators, education administrators and counselors throughout the state. The school features a doctorate program in Educational Leadership, several masters programs, and a multitude of graduate certificates, endorsements, certificates of completion, license preparation, and graduate credit programs. Many non-degree programs can be combined jointly with degrees or pursued independently.

The Graduate School of Education also includes the following research and training centers:

- Autism Training and Research Center
- Center for Student Success
- Early Childhood Training Center
- Research Center on Inclusive and Effective Educational Practices (RCIEP)
- Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education (OCCD)

The Dean of GSE has begun organization of a fundraising campaign with naming opportunities that would be created.