

CU trustees approve \$45M alumni center

New building could be named for donor

BY LAUREN PIERCE
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CLEMSON — The Clemson University Board of Trustees approved plans last week for a \$45 million alumni center to be built near the Madren Center and Walker Course.

Executive vice president of finance and operations Tony Wagner said the project will “provide space” for various university-related organizational groups.

That includes the Clemson University Foundation, the Alumni Association, the admissions office, development office, the board of trustees’ staff offices, the Michelin Career Center and visitors center.

“This project will vacate approximately 63,000 square feet of space on or immediately adjacent to the academic and residential core campus to be used for student-facing purposes,” Wagner said. “Additionally, co-locating and consolidating the development, alumni and the foundation as a single location will improve operational efficiencies in the partnership between these closely related functions.”

Alignment and presence of the groups is anticipated to generate “significant donor interest,” Wagner said, adding there’s opportunity for the alumni center to be named after a potential donor.

The project’s scheduled completion date is 2024.

Goodwyn Mills Cawood lead architect Marc Warren said the building is projected to bring in 100,000 visitors annually.

“The goal of this project is to provide a touchpoint for Clemson prospective students from their very first contact, while they’re a student, upon graduation and beyond,” Warren said two weeks ago. “We’re going to touch those students from the very beginning, all the way through their life and career being on campus.”

FINANCING AND DESIGN PLANS

The concept budget is estimated at slightly more than \$1 million and will be funded through maintenance and stewardship dollars. The total project cost is estimated to be \$45.8 million and is expected to be funded by state institution bonds (\$35.8 million) and gifts (\$10 million).

The project will stretch over 101,404 gross square feet. It was originally designed to cost \$29 million and span about 60,000 square feet, Wagner said.

The complex will be located near the 18th green of the golf course, just north of the Madren Center, according to officials.

“It’ll create a multi-use building

that would have event space and flexible office space for student, alumni and donor-facing activities,” Wagner said. “It’ll be designed to fully utilize a great building location around the 18th green of the golf course. This will be a high-profile project and important to our future fundraising efforts.”

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Marc Warren
Goodwyn Mills
Cawood architect

Construction of a new pro shop, grill and outdoor patio space near the golf course is also included in the project’s plans. Nearly 2,000 square feet will be dedicated to the board of trustees, while 11,988 square feet will be dedicated to the Michelin Career Center.

The aesthetics of the center will line up with other buildings on the main campus, according to Warren.

“We’ve focused very much on the architecture being compatible with the other projects and buildings on campus, creating this new sense of arrival and experience with

tremendous views of the golf course, lake and campus from the new facility,” he said. “We’re really focusing on how this building fits into the campus and creating some outdoor amenity spaces so visitors and users can really engage with this building in multiple ways. That’s really critically important.”

Riley Morningsstar contributed to this report.